

**The Christian Metzger Family History:
The Reformation to World War II**



The Author of this History
and her children
Robert, Mary and Janet
1921

An Abridged Version Containing Data
Up to World War II

CHRISTIAN METZGER

FOUNDER OF AN AMERICAN FAMILY

1682-1942

* * *

With His Ancestors Back to 1542

and a

Who's Who of Living Descendants

Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and

Eighth Generations

A HISTORY

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Christian Metzger
The Founder of an American Family
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Contents

Foreword to the abridged edition	xiii
Foreword to the first edition	xvii
Abbreviations	xix
Preface	xxi
Brief History of the Mill	xxiii
Reference Maps	xxvii
Württemberg, Germany, Present Day	xxviii
Hometowns of the Metzgers	xxix
Pennsylvania Counties, 1730	xxx
Pennsylvania Counties, 1790	xxxi
Pennsylvania Counties, 1830	xxxii
Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, 1867	xxxiii
Jacob's Creek, Pennsylvania, Present Day	xxxiv
Zionsville Environs, Present Day	xxxv
Biographical Sketch of Christian Metzger	xxxvii
Ancestors of Christian Metzger in his Paternal Line	1
Tax Records of Christian Metzger's Ancestors in Herrenberg 1468-1545	2
Balthasar Metzger, Jr. (Before 1553-1605), Mayor of Herrenberg	4
Balthasar Metzger, III (c.a. 1578-1626), Cloth Weaver	6
Petrus Metzger (1611-1684), Cloth Maker, Landlord of The Sun in Göppingen	10
Johann Georg Metzger (1650-1724), Baker, Innkeeper The Hart Inn, Judge, Mayor of Lorch	13

Johann Justinus Metzger (1684–1741), Baker and Collector of Taxes	16
Baptismal Records of the Children of Johann Justinus and Anna Barbara Metzger	26
Marriage and Death Records of Justinus and Anna Barbara Metzger, <i>née</i> Molt	31
Letter of Certification From the State Archivist	33
Dramatized History of Christian Metzger, the Millwright	35
Episode 1: The Funeral	36
Episode 2: The <i>Ship Rawley</i> Anchors on The Delaware	39
Episode 3: The Oath of Allegiance	41
Episode 4: The Wedding Day	44
Episode 5: The Son is Christened	46
Episode 6: The Revolutionary War	47
Episode 7: The Mill	50
Episode 8: Last Will and Testament	51
Episode 9: The Funeral	53
First Generation	55
Christian Metzger 1727–1803	55
The Settlement of Christian Metzger’s Estate	60
Second Generation	67
Johann Friedrich Metzger 1759–1842	67
Episode 1: Youth and Military Career	67
Episode 2: Marriage	69
Episode 3: Life Begins at Forty	72
Anna Schleiffer, Wife of Frederick Metzger 1759–Unknown	76
Henry Schleiffer, Father of Anna Schleiffer 1705–1796	79
Genealogical Table of Henry Schleiffer	84
Genealogical Table Frederick Metzger	91
Third Generation	93
Division 1 Daniel Medsker 1784–1860	93
Genealogical Table Daniel Medsker	102
Division 2 John Metzger 1786–Unknown	116
Genealogical Table John Metzger	118

Division 3 Frederick Metzgar, Jr. 1788–1824	119
Marica Swartz Metzgar	122
Genealogical Table Frederick Metzgar, Jr.	123
Division 4 Nancy Metzger 1790–1886	130
Genealogical Table Nancy Metzger Weible	136
Division 5 Christian Metsker, II 1795–1862	150
Genealogical Table Christian Metsker, II	157
Division 6 George Medsger 1800–1874	167
Genealogical Table George Medsger	174
Division 7 Rev. Henry Metsger 1802–1842	186
Genealogical Table Rev. Henry Metsger	187

Miscellany **195**

Passengers on <i>Ship Rawley</i> October 23, 1752	195
Zionsville Lutheran Church	197
Site of the Schleiffer Farm, 2023	199
Barren Run Lutheran Church and School	201
Barren Run United Brethren Church	205
Letter From the Archivist to Mrs. Milligan	208

Appendices **211**

A. Wills of Jehu (1810–1892) and Josina Medsker (1818–1897), Division 1	213
B. Autobiography of David Swartz Metzgar (1817–1914), Division 3	217
Introduction	218
The Horse Market	222
Pennsylvania to Illinois by Steamboat	223
Visits a Theater in Philadelphia	224
Invests in a Mississippi River Steamboat	225
Goes Broke	226
Lime and Cement Manufacture	227
He Sums Up	228
Death Notice	231

Bibliography **233**

Index of Family Names **239**

Index of Places	251
Index of Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	257
Index of Religious Legacy	261
Index of Family Stories	267
Index of Supporting Names	269
Contributors to the History	275

List of Figures

1	Yeakel Mill, 1941	xxiv
2	Yeakel Mill, 2023	xxv
3	Map of Württemberg	xxviii
4	Hometowns of the Metzgers	xxix
5	Counties in Pennsylvania, 1730	xxx
6	Counties in Pennsylvania, 1790	xxxii
7	Counties in Pennsylvania, 1830	xxxiii
8	Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, 1867	xxxiii
9	Jacob's Creek, Present Day	xxxiv
10	Zionsville Environs, Present Day	xxxv
11	Tax Records From the Town of Herrenberg for Balthasar Metzger and Other Ancestors of Christian Metzger From 1468–1545	3
12	Genealogical Table of Balthas (Balthasar) Metzger, Jr., Mayor B. I. (§2) Before 1545–Before 1605	5
13	Genealogical Table of Balthasar Metzger, Cloth Weaver C. I. (§3) c.a. 1578–1626	7
14	Genealogical Table of Georg Metzger, Cloth Weaver in Göppingen D. I. (§4) 1606–Before 1648	9
15	Genealogical Table of Petrus Metzger, Cloth Maker, Landlord of The Sun in Göppingen D. II. (§5) 1611–1684	12
16	Former Hart Inn	14
17	Genealogical Table of Johann Georg Metzger, Baker, The Hart Inn Innkeeper, Judge, Mayor of Lorch E. I. (§6) 1650–1724	15
18	Former Guard House	18
19	Examination of the Seelenregister in Lorch, 1991	18
20	Genealogical Table of Johann Justinus Metzger F. I. (§7) 1684–1741, Father of Christian	19

21	Genealogical Tables of Jakob Friedrich G. I. (§8) 1711-1752 and Ludwig Friedrich Metzger G. II. (§9) 1716-1760, Brothers of Christian	22
22	Genealogical Tables of Johann Albrecht G. III. (§10) 1718-1750 and Johannes Metzger G. IV. (§11) 1720-1772, Brothers of Christian	25
23	Baptismal Records for the Children of Justinus and Anna Barbara Molt Metzger 1709-1716	28
24	Baptismal Records for the Children of Justinus and Anna Barbara Molt Metzger 1718-1722	29
25	Baptismal Records for the Children of Justinus and Anna Barbara Molt Metzger 1726-1727	30
26	Marriage and Death Records for Justinus Metzger and Anna Barbara Molt	32
27	Letter of Certification From the State Archivist	34
28	Grave Markers of Heinrich and Veronica Schleiffer	84
29	Plat Record of Christian Metzger, II Surveyed 20 September 1831	156
30	First United Brethren Church of Strasburg, Ohio	157
31	David Metsger's Sewing Machine	192
32	Zionville Lutheran Church, 19th and 20th c.	197
33	Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Sanctuary, 2023	197
34	Former Schleiffer Farmhouse	199
35	Former Schleiffer Property	200
36	Former Schleiffer Hay Barn	200
37	Hart Inn Shield	208
38	Hart Inn Carriage House	209

List of Tables

1	An Inventory of the Personal Property of Christian Metzger	62
2	Comparative Values From Inventories in Pennsylvania Counties	64
3	An Inventory of the Personal Property of Henry Schleiffer	88

Foreword to the abridged edition

ELLA METZGER MILLIGAN'S HISTORY of the Christian Metzger family was first published in 1942 as a lithograph of a typewritten manuscript, which she subsequently expanded with 4 additions.¹ It has come to be known within the family as the *Red Book* because of its red cloth cover.² A fifth addition was compiled in 2000.

The first addition to the *Red Book*, entitled Supplement (Appendix), contains miscellany,³ some of which is contained in this abridgment. Not contained in this abridgment is an expose of a *Kansas City Journal* newspaper report of a large, unclaimed Metzger fortune; errata; indices of national officers; Metzger names of all spellings and other names; and facsimiles, including facsimiles of a plat record of Henry Schleiffer's property and the inventory and settlement of Christian Metzger's estate. The miscellany is followed immediately by a photographic section of facsimiles, national figures, and portraits.

The second addition, Supplement To History, contains revisions for Division 1, generations 4 through 7, including children in generation 8 (11 pages).

The third addition, Second Supplement, Part 2 to the History, expands Division 4 with the lineages of John, Frederick, William, Fanny, Jacob, and Daniel Weible of generation 4 (58 pages), and expands Division 6 with the lineage of John B. Metzger, generations 4 to 8 (3 pages). It also acknowledges the 7-year leadership of Dr. Oliver Perry Medsger as president of the Association. This is the last page of the online edition.

¹ The 1942 publication with 3 supplements is accessible at archive.org/details/christianmetzger00mill. Accessed 20 May 2023. Mrs. Milligan began writing the HISTORY as early as 1916 (see p. 205). She is a fifth-generation descendant of Christian Metzger in Div. 5. Her biographical sketch is in the *Red Book*, pp. 296–297.

² Perhaps Mrs. Milligan wanted the history of the Metzger family to be bound as her history of her mother's family, the Nickeys. See archive.org/details/historyofnickeyf00mill. Accessed 20 May 2023.

³ *Red Book*, pp. 451–477.

Between the third and fourth additions is an announcement reproduced from the *News Bulletin of the Christian Metzger Family*, Number 7 dated November 15, 1950, of the availability of the *Red Book* containing “511 pages with 28 full-page portrait pictures, besides pictures of churches and homes. The price is \$10.00.”

The fourth addition, Second Supplement to the History, follows (30 pages including general statements and narrative). This addition revises Division 7 beginning with the lineage of Rev. Henry Metzger to 8 generations. The descendants of Henry through his daughter, Mary Ruth, are provided first in this supplement (13 pages) followed by David (9 pages) followed by Samuel (6 pages). The revised dates in this addition are prioritized in the abridgment such that the birth order is now presented as Samuel, Mary Elizabeth, David, and Mary Ruth. The latest genealogical record in the second supplement appears to be January 11, 1950 (the birth of Nina Naas). The fourth addition concludes with the identification and picture of officers of the Association in 1949. Up to this time, the *Red Book* included ancestral stories and tributes as they had been carried forward and prepared, and, as offered, short biographical accounts of later descendants.

A fifth addition, entitled Supplement #4, was added in 2000. It summarizes, in 204 pages, all known descendants of Christian Metzger up to 11 generations, and numbers 1268 descendants who have progeny; the index of names, some with first names only and those unknown, spans 41 pages. These additional genealogical records were appended to the original manuscript, reproduced in 2001 in its original form.

The *Red Book* contains data for 8 generations, the present abridgment contains data for 5 generations. The latest date in the abridgment is November 28, 1944 (the death of Ada Metzger).

The text from the 1942 edition has been typeset and expanded. Supplemental material described above has been relocated to the main text. Maps have been added with an index of places. All identified cemeteries and burial grounds are now indexed. The rich religious legacy enjoyed by the family is reflected in a new index of religious items of interest. Vignettes of selected ancestors are indexed as are all names of unrelated persons who, in their own way, contributed to the stories contained herein, those told and untold. Spouses of family members and founders of divisions are distinguished in the index of family members. Updated photographs have been added as available.

Minor corrections have been introduced, such as changing the suffix of the grandson of Christian from Jr. to II and aligning the name of the ship that brought Christian to our shores to *Ship Rawley*.⁴ A number of errors inconsequential to the family history have been corrected with little or no comment. Bibliographic data for Mrs. Milligan's published sources have been updated, when possible, including links. Spellings have been codified where appropriate; variations of Burgomaster, the German equivalent of mayor, for example, now appear as *Bürgermeister*. Some names appear in two forms, in approximate order of first use: Balthas (Balthasar), Christianus (Christian), Petrus (Peter), Johann Justinus also Justinus (Justin), Johann Friedrich (Frederick I), and Anna (Nancy) Metzger. The 7 divisions of the family were founded by 6 grandsons and 1 granddaughter of Christian, who immigrated in 1752. The family name now appears in varied spellings as determined by descendants of the founders. In some cases, editorial judgment has determined authorial intent when letters or numbers were typed over, broken, or filled; edits in punctuation and few edits in text were made for ease of reading. Researchers and historical purists may consult the online version cited above; those reading for delight and discovery may prefer this shorter volume, respectfully offered to preserve the work of Mrs. Milligan and to honor those who have sustained and nurtured the Association since before its first gathering in 1947. References to the writer or to the first person in this abridgment refer to Ella Metsker Milligan unless specified. References to time are relative to the time texts were originally written.

The publication of this abridged history commemorates the 24th National Christian Metzger Family Reunion held July 14–16, 2023 at Blackburn Inn in Staunton, Virginia. Attendees whole-heartedly embraced this project. David and Carol Medsger Gillott and Dai Morgan reviewed a late draft that included data up to the fourth generation; Candy Morgan did copy editing, all of Division 6. Their work is acknowledged, gratefully. Joel M. Leininger of Leininger Press excelled in generous and gracious counsel throughout that multiplied the pleasures of this otherwise arduous task.

Data inconsistencies are retained from the original text. For example, dates for children born to the third generation do not always agree with dates for these children in the subsequent record of the fourth generation. Further, data supplied in the supplemental material published in 1942 may

⁴ See the bibliographic record, p. 235, and copy of the passenger list, p. 196.

have been intended to correct as well as to update data in the main body. It is not practical to identify all discrepancies or their sources, but this has been done in some cases. Although the present editor is capable of making his own errors in preparing the typewritten manuscript for publication of this abridged version, he is unable to correct preexisting ones without access to primary sources. Perhaps a later generation will embark on preparing a fuller history even as they make their own. Will they discover that Veronica (Fronnie) established a division as did her sister Anna (Nancy)?

He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he
commanded, for a thousand generations . . . Psalm 105.8

D. Scott Metsger, Ph.D., Editor
Division 7
Eighth generation
November 2023

Errata available at redbook.metsger.com.

Preface

THE DRAMATIZED HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN METZGER, the millwright, has been built out of a box of jack-straws. The “straws” have been collected during forty years of search, working from the known to the unknown.⁵ All names of persons, all place names, all dates, all historical incidents, buildings, ships, publications or any item used in this story, are actually factual and were or are existent.

...

Black face numbers are reserved for Metzger men who marry. These numbers appear, first, in standard Arabic type before the name in the list of children under their father, previous generation.⁶ Turn back to this for the father. An exception is made to the numbering system for the men in Division 4 because Anna (Nancy) founded a division (p. 130).

Metzger daughters who marry have a complete lineage of their descendants in the original work set under their name where it appears in the list of their father. These descendants are indexed in the “Other Names” Index in the original. All daughters are indexed in the “Metzger Index.”

Mrs. Milligan did not prepare a formal preface, but the opening lines in her foreword, relocated here, aptly serve. The remainder of her foreword appears in this volume as a brief biographical sketch of Christian Metzger (p. xxxvii).

⁵ The far-flung sources are listed in the bibliography, beginning on p. 233.

⁶ A few sequential numbers appear to be missing from the HISTORY; descendants were renumbered in the 2001 edition of the *Red Book*.

Brief History of the Mill

THE MILL WAS BUILT BY CHRISTIAN METZGER on Indian Creek in Upper Milford Township, Northampton (now Lehigh⁷) County, Pennsylvania from 1788 to 1780.⁸

By a series of indentures, apparently clandestine, and not recorded until after Christian Metzger's death, he lost control of the title to the mill and the thirty-five acres of land, the source of waterpower.⁹ He seems not to have realized this, for by his last will and testament he bequeathed the use of these to his wife, Anna Catharina, for her lifetime.

Anna Catharina died March 25, 1812. Up until her death, she had occupied the mill, which had been operated by Christian Metzger's heirs. Three days later, a second inventory of the personal property of Christian Metzger in the use of his wife was filed at Easton.

On March 28, 1812, the actual owner came from under cover and, by indenture, conveyed the mill and the thirty-five acres of land to Abraham Yeakel of Hereford Township, Berks County. The consideration was four hundred twenty-five pounds, lawful money. The title still rests in the Yeakel family.

The mill, now known as Yeakel's Mill, is located at 7401 Powder Valley Road in Zionsville, PA 18092. Photographs of Yeakel's Mill are available at millpictures.com/mills.php?millid=102 under the title *Funk/Read/Yeakel Grist Mill Ruins*. Accessed 22 May 2023.

⁷ Lehigh County was formed from Northampton County 6 March 1812.

⁸ This date range of 1788 to 1780 appears facing the frontispiece of the *Red Book*. A date of 1782 is cited on p. xxxviii.

⁹ The extent of Christian's property at his death is 34 acres on p. xxxix, 35 acres on p. 61, and 13 acres on p. 60.

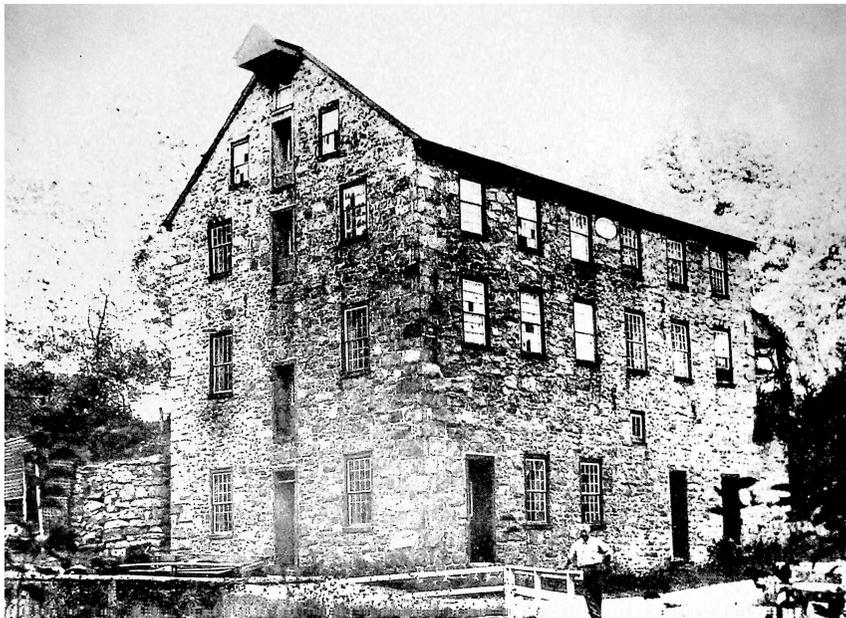


Figure 1: Yeakel Mill, 1941

Mr. L. F. Yeakel, a grandson of Abraham, stands in the foreground. He was born in the residence quarters of this mill.

Photograph by Oliver Perry Medsger, 1941.



Figure 2: Yeakel Mill, 2023

The site of the Christian Metzger mill lies on the north side of Buhman Road on the east side of Indian Creek that runs along Powder Valley Road. The site is bounded by woods on the north and a newer construction east of the stone mill that has remained unfinished for at least 25 years. A residence of sorts sits atop the mill that, too, has been unoccupied for an equivalent period. Vines now cover the first window east of the near door of the original structure.

Photograph by Candy Morgan, September 2023.

Reference Maps

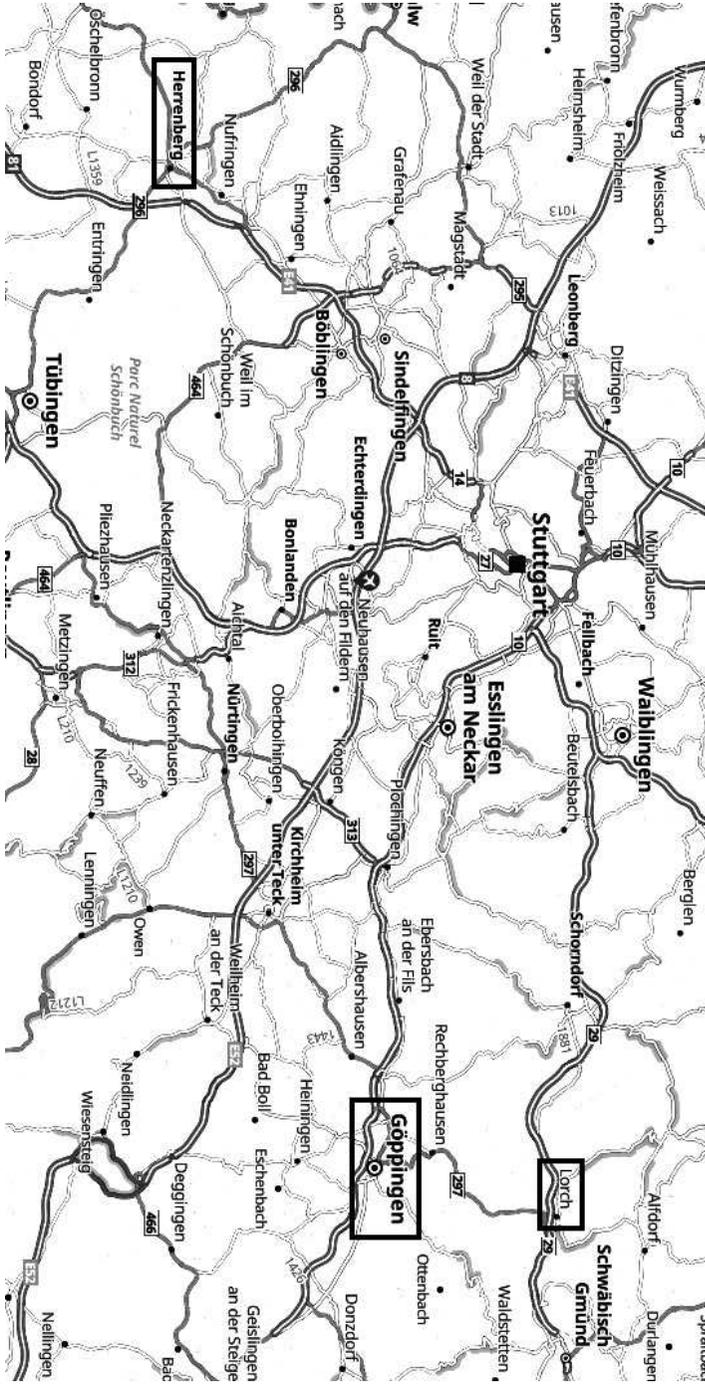


Figure 3: Map of Württemberg Showing Lorch, Göppingen, and Herrenberg

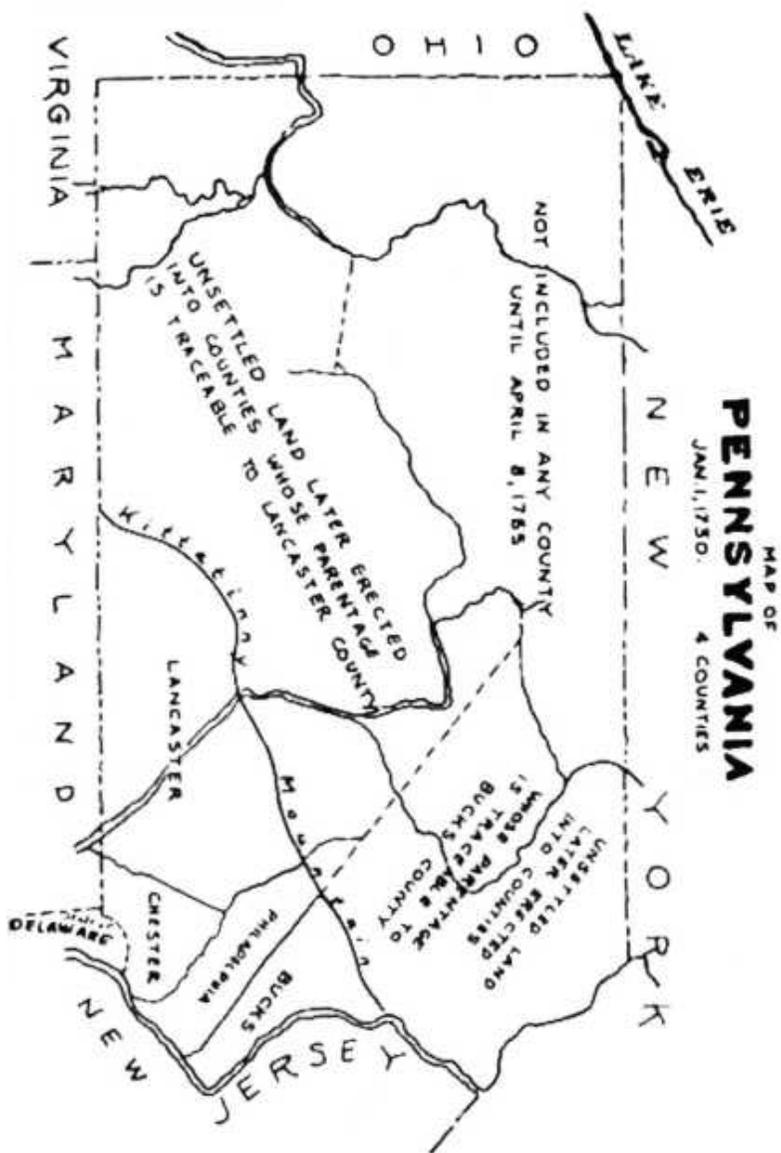
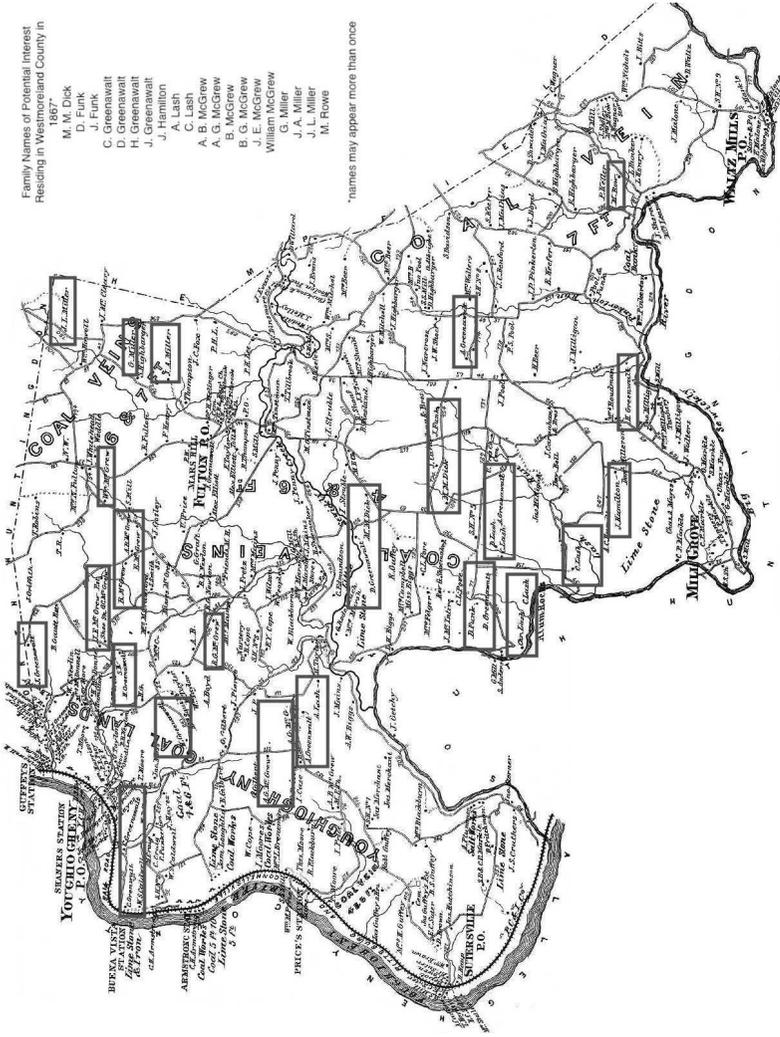


Figure 5: Counties in Pennsylvania, 1730



Family Names of Potential Interest
Residing in Westmoreland County in
1867

- M. M. Dick
- D. Funk
- J. Funk
- C. Greenwalt
- D. Greenwalt
- H. Greenwalt
- J. Greenwalt
- J. Hamilton
- A. Lash
- A. G. Lash
- A. G. McGraw
- A. G. McGraw
- B. McGraw
- B. G. McGraw
- J. E. McGraw
- William McGraw
- G. Miller
- J. Miller
- J. L. Miller
- M. Rowe

Names may appear more than once

Figure 8: Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, 1867

Biographical Sketch of Christian Metzger, Founder of An American Family

CHRISTIAN METZGER, of Upper Milford Township, Northampton County, (now Lehigh), Pennsylvania, took the oath of allegiance to the English Crown at Philadelphia, October 23, 1752.¹⁰ He was twenty-five and single. Except for a six-month sojourn in Holland on his way to America, he had lived his twenty-five years in the town of Lorch, about twenty miles east of Stuttgart in the Kingdom of Württemberg (p. xxviii). One should not add “Germany.” This kingdom, Württemberg, had been an independent constitutional monarchy since the days of Martin Luther, and Protestant. So it remained for a century and a quarter longer, or until absorbed into the German Empire in 1871 at a time when the people of the American Commonwealth, whom Christian Metzger had joined, were planning their first National Centennial.

Born in Lorch, Kingdom of Württemberg, Christian was the youngest of eight sons and one daughter. Justin Metzger, his father, died when Christian was thirteen. He remained by his mother until her death. Then with no tie or responsibility, he came to the Colony of Pennsylvania.

Christian Metzger’s family were members of the official class of Lorch. When Christian was a baby, too young to recall it later, his father had gone as a delegate, for four consecutive years, to sit in the Lower Chamber of the National Assembly at Stuttgart, the capital. Christian’s grandfather, Johann Georg Metzger, was Mayor (*Bürgermeister*) of Lorch for fifteen years, a wealthy and influential man. Christian’s mother was the daughter of the Head of Public Schools of Lorch.

There was a Protestant College at Lorch. The musician Robert Schumann (1810–1856) received his education in this college.¹¹ It must be understood that

This material was included in the original foreword as A Brief Biographical Sketch of Christian Metzger, Founder of Our American Family.

¹⁰ Northampton County was established 14 October 1752, 9 days before Christian Metzger came to Philadelphia; Lehigh County was formed from Northampton County 6 March 1812, 19 days before his wife, Anna, died.

¹¹ Schumann was born 58 years after Christian emigrated to America, 7 years after Christian’s death.

the young Christian Metzger had had such associates before coming to America. All his brothers and his sister, as well as he, had been baptized with a long list of prominent local people as sponsors standing by the font in the Established (Lutheran) Church of his home town. And so had his ancestors for two hundred years back. These functions were carefully recorded in the *Seelenregister* by the Curate of the Parish. This was the background Christian Metzger brought to Pennsylvania on October 23, 1752.

He lived up to his background as nearly as a German-speaking man could in an official English-speaking community, pioneering in a raw, new world on a new continent. His first five years in America were lived in Germantown, now a part of Philadelphia, but then an aristocratic suburb for the English and a lively center for all German immigrants coming to the Colony and going on further for land. He attended the now historic German Lutheran Church St. Michael's and married at its altar a girl from Alsace, Catharina Häuser.

In 1757, he and his young wife moved to Zionsville (now Old Zionsville; see Figure 10, p. xxxv), where Peter Hüttel had started a village on the famous "King's Highway." Peter Hüttel was in the real estate business and expected Christian would buy some land when he had looked things over and made a choice. Christian did make a choice, but to a thrifty tiller of the soil, his selection was the poorest in all Peter Hüttel had to sell. It lay on Indian Creek, beyond Bald Hill, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge where this picturesque stream tumbles down over a cliff. He took 113 acres here, but with no intent of agriculture. He was looking for waterpower. Christian Metzger was a millwright. He planned to build and operate a mill. He was a dreamer, and he dreamed of constructing his hometown industry at Lorch, here, on Indian Creek, in Pennsylvania.

Christian had grown up by a mill on a lake made by a dam in the snow-fed, tumbling Rems River, racing around Lorch as it came down the western slopes of the Alps. When grown, he had worked in this mill on the lake. In fact, the owners of the mill, the Hohenstaufen family, had given a concession to Justin Metzger to build his new house on the grounds by the mill, and so this lake and mill had become the very substance of the young Christian Metzger's life.

By the year 1782,¹² Christian was building the dream mill. The result was the historic landmark, the fine stone structure,¹³ still standing (1941) on Indian Creek, called by the present generation "Yeakel's Mill." Fine engineering is exhibited in the structure of this mill. He built a dam which created a good deep pond. He carried the millrace through the mill so that the huge water wheel could be under roof inside the mill protected from the weather. The arch in the substructure of the building through which the sluice waters are returned to the stream is a piece of masonry equal in structural beauty to the famous *Cloaca Maxima* at

¹² A date range of 1788 to 1780 is cited on p. xxiii.

¹³ The family understands Christian built a wooden mill, subsequently destroyed by fire and rebuilt in stone by Abraham Yeakel.

Rome. The entire building has symmetry as well as durability; even the living quarters are planned with charm of arrangement.

However, Christian's imagination over-leaped his purse, apparently. At the time of his death in 1803, his mill was being bandied about in a series of clandestine court actions, although his heirs, with some claim to title, operated it for a decade longer, or until Christian's wife, too, had died. On the day after her death, the mill and thirty-four¹⁴ acres of land with it, the source of waterpower, were openly transferred to a neighbor, who, in 1816, sold it to Abraham Yeakel, whose heirs still hold the title.

Christian Metzger's estate was in court fifteen years, pending settlement. Using the measuring stick devised for changing values between 1800 A.D. and 1940 A.D. made by Arthur Pound, the Yale Economist, the estate would be worth \$10,000 today. He lived well, according to the standards of his time. His ten-plate stove (the *Bible-in-Iron*) and his master's bedstead were inventoried on his death at the highest price. He had a bathtub and a gold inkwell. His store of household linen and his linen shirts and handkerchiefs were much above the usual quota. His imported German Bible rated at a higher value than any in three inventories of deceased heads of families during the same decade in two other Pennsylvania counties, Bucks and Montgomery, embracing such names as Kern, Landis, and Schleiffer (Table 2, p. 64).¹⁵

He was a charter member of the Lutheran Church at Old Zionsville. The pastors of this church taught his seven children, baptized, catechized, and married them. The Rev. John Paul Frederick Kramer, pastor from 1797 to 1803, signed Christian's Last Will and Testament and conducted his funeral rites. Although no stone marks his grave, his body lies buried in this spacious churchyard.

But his name did not perish in his unmarked grave. By his Last Will and Testament, after providing for his wife by leaving her his entire estate, undivided and unchanged for her lifetime, he orders, on her death, that his property real, personal and movable, shall be rendered into cash or bonds and divided into seven equal portions to be given to his seven children whom he then names in chronological order:

To Elizabetha, joined in marriage with Philip Witman, but now a widow
To Catharina, joined in marriage with Abraham Meyer, but now deceased
To Friedrich Metzger, his only son
To Anna Margarita, joined in marriage with Jacob Schiffert

¹⁴ The extent of Christian's property at his death is 35 acres on pp. xxiii and 61, 13 acres on p. 60.

¹⁵ The inventory of J. Underwood from Watertown, Massachusetts, prepared in 1676, has been deleted in the abridgment for lack of relevance with respect to location and time. The name of Strassburger appeared in the original HISTORY, but was not included in the table of comparative values.

CHRISTIAN METZGER: FOUNDER OF AN AMERICAN FAMILY

To Anna Maria, first joined in marriage with Nicholas Koch, but after his death married, second, to Friedrich Miller

To Anna Eva, joined in marriage with John Adam Schiffert

To Anna Christina, joined in marriage with Heinrich Harttman.

Christian's will was exhibited and proved at Easton October 18th, 1803. An inventory of his personal property and movables was sworn to and filed on the same day by Philip Walter and Frederick Kramer.

Ancestors of Christian Metzger in his Paternal Line

1545 AD to 1741 AD

STATE ARCHIVIST Benz provided Mrs. Milligan the following handwritten copies of ancestral records existing in the Established Lutheran Church Registers in the ancient towns of Herrenberg, Göppingen, and Lorch in the kingdom of Württemberg (Figure 3 on page xxviii). These records span approximately 200 years from the first record of the earliest confirmed ancestor in Christian's direct line through 6 generations, and include genealogical records of 4 of his brothers and a great-great-uncle.¹⁶ The earliest record identified in Christian's paternal line is a tax record for Balthas (Balthasar) Metzger dated 1545. Balthasar had a son, *Bürgermeister* of Herrenberg, and grandson, a cloth weaver, both named Balthasar, born before 1545 and about 1578, respectively. The direct line to Christian continues through Petrus (1611–1684), also a cloth weaver, then through Christian's grandfather, Johann Georg, (1650–1724), *Bürgermeister* of Lorch, judge, and innkeeper of The Hart Inn, and father, Johann Justinus (1684–1741), a baker and collector of taxes. Christian was the youngest of 9 children.

¹⁶ The archivist numbers descendants from §1 through §11; Mrs. Milligan uses a system of capital letters and Roman numerals. Mrs. Milligan, but not the archivist, initially counted the first son of Johann Justinus, named Johann Georg after his grandfather (*Red Book*, p. 20). Correspondence is achieved beginning 4 pages later as Mrs. Milligan abandons Johann Georg in her accounting, perhaps because the archivist does not record any progeny in his 25 years.

Tax Records Herrenberg, Württemberg

IN THE TAX RECORDS OF THE TOWN HERRENBERG, there appear the following names of persons who may be regarded, without question, as ancestral kindred of the family Metzger appearing on the Church Records at Herrenberg, Göppingen, and Lorch, at hand.

Figure 11 on the next page presents a tax payment record of Balthas (Balthasar) Metzger, A. I. 5. (§1), in 1545, 6 generations before Christian. The relationship of the other Metzgers to Christian is unclear.

- §.1. In Steuerbüchern der Stadt Herrenberg erscheinen folgende Träger des Namens Metzger, die ohne Bedenken als Ahnen der in den nachstehenden Blättern an Hand der Kirchenbücher von Herrenberg, Göppingen und Lorch erscheinenden Familie Metzger gelten.
1. 1468 : Conitz (Konrad)
Claus (Nikolaus)
Endris (Andreas)
 2. 1471 : Curtz (Konrad)
Endres der Alt (Andreas senior)
" " Jung (" junior)
 3. 1523 : Alt Hermsin (Johann senior)
1525 Jung " (" junior)
Ruff (Rudolf), Marx (Marcus)
Veit (Vitus), Martins Witwe.
Wolff (Wolfgang), Wendels Kinder.
Jerg (Georg).
 4. 1536 : Marx (Marcus)
Bollin (Pelagius)
Wolff (Wolfgang)
 5. 1545 : Marx (Marcus)
Bollin (Pelagius)
Balthas (Balthasar) § 1.
Jörg (Georg)
Veits (Vitus) Witwe.
Wolf (Wolfgang).

Figure 11: Tax Records From the Town of Herrenberg for Balthasar Metzger and Other Ancestors of Christian Metzger From 1468-1545

B. I. (§2) METZGER, Balthasar, Jr., Mayor in Herrenberg

Son of Balthasar (A. I. 5. [§1])

b. Herrenberg, before 1553¹⁷

d. same place, before 1605

m. same, before 1575 to Katharina

Children:

1. Katharina

b. Herrenberg 7/13 1575

2. Balthasar, III (C. I. [§3])

b. Herrenberg c.a. 1578

NOTE: Luther's Reformation spread after 1517 through the Duchy of Württemberg, whose subjects the Metzger family were. From 1519 to 1534, Austria was in possession of the Duchy after the rightful Duke, Ulrich, had been exiled. He returned, however, in 1534 and put through the Reformation. The Metzgers, appearing in 1523, were already, probably, Lutherans, certainly Balthasar (B. I.).

From the records of the Collegiate Church Herrenberg (Figure 12 on the facing page)

¹⁷ Although Archivist Benz supplies the date of 1553 in Figure 12, the earliest mention of Balthasar is 1545 in the tax records (Figure 11 on the previous page).

First Generation

Christian Metzger 1727–1803

CHRISTIAN METZGER (G. I. Württemberg)

Son of Johann Justin (F. I. Württemberg)

Founder of the Family in U.S.A.

Immigrated to Philadelphia, Penna. 10/23 1752

b. 10/2 1727 Lorch, Württemberg

d. 10/18 1803 Upper Milford Twp., Northampton Co., Penna.

m. 11/18 1755 Anna Catharina Häuser(in), an emigre from Alsace, single, then living in Germantown (now Philadelphia)⁴³

b. — Alsace

d. 3/25 1812 Upper Milford Twp., Lehigh Co., Penna.⁴⁴

Children:

i. Elizabetha

b. 7/22 1756 Baptized 8/29, St. Michael's Church, Germantown, Penna.
Sponsors, Henry Bamberger and Elisabeth

d. —

m. — Philip Witman

b. 4/28 1751

d. 3/30 1796

In the manuscript library of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania located at 1300 Locust St., Philadelphia, may be found a copy of the Church Records of Old Zionsville Lutheran Church, Lehigh County. Christian Metzger was a charter member of this communion, and the Church Register records the baptisms of his children and grandchildren and many of their marriages. There is here a record of the birth and death of Philip Witman, the husband of Elisabetha. Also a record of the baptisms of eleven of their children, Christian Metzger, the grandfather, often acting as sponsor. (The following genealogical record lists three Witman children.) The Witman family later became prominent in local history. This record shows that Anna Eva and her husband John Adam Schiffert had nine children. Anna Maria (Metzger) (Koch) had two children by her second husband, Frederick Miller. This record also shows that Anna Margarita, who married Jacob Schiffert, had two children.

⁴³ The marriage is recorded by Pastor Friedrich Handschuh of St. Michael's German Lutheran Church in Germantown.

⁴⁴ Anna Metzger died 19 days after Zionsville was incorporated into Lehigh County.

CHRISTIAN METZGER: FOUNDER OF AN AMERICAN FAMILY

Children:

1. John Witman
b. 7/17 1775
d. d.y.
2. Magdalena Witman
b. 9/24 1776 Sponsors, Philip Herwick and Magdalena Häuser
d. —
3. Frederick Witman
b. 10/29 1778 Sponsors, Frederick Metzger and Catherine Kehl,
both single
d. 12/30 1844
m. — Magdalena Knepley
b. 7/22 1780
d. 9/20 1865⁴⁵

Children:

- (1) Joseph Witman
b. 6/7 1808
d. — 1890
m. 10/7 1839 Lavina Kern
b. 5/4 1818
d. 5/20 1898

Children:

- (1)^a Mary Jane Witman
- (2)^a Sarah E. Witman
b. —
d. —
m. — Hiram S. Shimer
- (3)^a Agnes Witman
b. —
d. —
m. — Jacob Farr
- (4)^a Amanda Witman
b. —
d. —
m. — David Bentley of Philadelphia

Children:

- (1)^b Thomas F. Bentley of Philadelphia
b. — 1846
d. — 1902

⁴⁵ The last digit in the year of Magdalena Knepley's death has been typed over. The original entry could have been either 1864, 1865, or, unlikely, 1866.

- (5)^a W. Theodore⁴⁶
- (6)^a Harry J. Witman
- (7)^a Ethel Witman
- (8)^a Russell Witman
- (9)^a Albert Joseph Witman
- (10)^a Lena Witman
 - b. —
 - d. d.y.
- (11)^a Fannie Witman
 - b. —
 - d. —
 - m. Dr. Frank Erdman
- (2) Esther Witman
 - b. —
 - d. —
 - m. first, — Isaac Freeman
 - m. second, — Christian Lange
- (3) Andrew K. Witman, a Justice of the Peace
 - b. — 1812
 - d. — 1896
 - m. — Ann Jenette Muschlitz
 - Children:
 - (1)^a —
 - b. —
 - d. —
 - m. — Johnathan Stetzel
 - (2)^a —
 - b. —
 - d. —
 - m. — Wm. Jewell of Philadelphia
- (4) Charles Witman
 - b. — 1805
 - d. — 1890
 - m. — Victorine Baner
 - Children:
 - (1)^a Byron Witman
 - (2)^a Charles Witman, Jr.

⁴⁶ W. Theodore Witman, great-great-grandson of Christian Metzger, still a resident of Northampton County, has long been a judge of poultry at fairs.

CHRISTIAN METZGER: FOUNDER OF AN AMERICAN FAMILY

(3)^a Frederick Witman, Attorney at Law

b. 5/24 1873

d. —

m. —

(5) Hannah Witman

b. —

d. d.y.

(6) Mary Magdalena Witman

b. —

d. —

m. unm.

(7) Peter Witman

b. — 1821

d. — 1902

m. — Louisa Mohry

b. — 1828

d. — 1891

Children:

(1)^a Sylvanus Witman

b. 2.4 1850

d. —

m. —

Children:

(1)^b Charles H. Witman

b. 6/1 1875

d. —

(2)^b Mary Witman

b. —

d. —

m. — Warren Yheulen

(2)^a Henry Witman

(3)^a John F. Witman

ii. Catharina

b. 8/2 1757 Upper Milford Twp., Penna. Baptized 8/30 1757, Zionsville
Lutheran Church

d. — before her father

m. — Abraham Meier

Children:

1. Jacob Meier

2. A daughter

- i iii. Johann Friedrich (Frederick I)
 b. 3/4 1759 Baptized 8/23 1759, Zionsville Lutheran Church. Spon-
 sors, Frederick Kern and Margaret
 d. 10/17 1842
 m. — 1782 Anna Schleiffer
- iv. Anna Margarita
 b. — 1762?
 d. —
 m. — Jacob Schiffert
- Children:
 1. Eva Schiffert
 b. 5/15 1785
 2. Henry Schiffert
 b. 1/6 1787
- v. Anna Maria
 b. 3/7 1763 Baptized 3/23 1763, Zionsville Lutheran Church
 d. —
 m. first, — Nicholas Koch
- Children:
 1. Daniel Koch
 2. Elizabeth Koch
 m. second, — Frederick Miller
- Children:
 1. John Miller
 b. — 1796 Baptized 4/24 1796
 2. David Miller
 b. 1/10 1797
- vi. Anna Eva
 b. 5/6 1776
 d. 5/13 1854 A widow 42 years
 m. — John Adam Schiffert
 b. —
 d. 3/20 1812 Zionsville, Penna.
- Children:
 1. Susanna Schiffert
 b. 4/11 1788
 2. Adam Schiffert
 b. 11/22 1788
 d. d.y.
 3. Elisabeth Schiffert
 b. 11/20 1789

4. Maria Schiffert
b. 8/11 1791
5. Catharine Schiffert
b. 12/29 1793
d. —
m. — a Mr. Esterly
6. Jonas Schiffert
b. —
d. d.y.
7. Joseph Schiffert
b. 2/9 1799
8. Anna Eva Schiffert
b. 7/10 1801
d. —
m. Jesse Stahl
9. Anthony Schiffert
b. 4/27 1805
10. Daniel Schiffert
b. 3/16 1808
- vii. Anna Christina
b. 1/5 1769 Baptized 1/25 1769, Zionsville Lutheran Church
d. —
m. — Heinrich Hartman, who died in Berks Co. where they were
residing, before 1812.

The Settlement of Christian Metzger's Estate

At his death on October 18, 1803, Christian owned 13 acres of land and his original house where his wife apparently continued to reside until her death.⁴⁷ The valuation of his bonds, notes, cash, articles of husbandry and household were appraised at £461 (Table 1; comparative values of inventories from contemporaries in Pennsylvania are presented in Table 2 on page 64). By the terms of his Last Will and Testament, Christian's estate could not be settled and the record closed until his wife's death.

Anna Catherine died March 25, 1812, surviving her husband more than eight years and his appointed executors, Heinrich Hartmann, by several years, and John Adam Schiffert, by just one week. The court appointed David Shubert administrator. He filed his final report for record at Easton, Northampton County on December 2, 1817. On January 28, 1818, by petition of the heirs, auditors on

This material has been moved here from the Dramatized History.

⁴⁷ The extent of Christian's property at his death is 35 acres on pp. xxiii and 61, 34 acres on p. xxxix.

Appendix B

Autobiography of David Swartz Metzgar, Division 3, Fourth Generation

DAVID SWARTZ METZGAR was an outstanding man of his times. He enjoyed a century, not a year of which was lost time, with such zest did he live it. Born early in 1817 on the western frontier of the young republic, then in western Pennsylvania, he died late in 1914 when the union of forty-eight states was rounded out, when the American way of life, with all its greatest inventions and its economic structure, was existent from coast to coast on an unvarying, uniform level. He had passed from transportation “on foot or on horseback” to transportation by limited express trains, through freight, well-developed automobile cars and trucks, and steamships that crossed the Atlantic in five days. He had passed from communication by messenger on horseback, or a crude postal system, to the telegraph and telephone networks that spanned the length and breadth of the land and cables under the sea. He had been born to and trained in hand-trades and domestic manufacture. He saw industry in a well developed system of mass production and mass distribution. He lived the full nineteenth century, probably the greatest of all centuries.

Because he sensed and understood the marvelous change through which he had come, he wanted to write his autobiography for his children, that they might have his personal record of the progress of which he had been an eager part. In order that the Christian Metzger lineage of today, and of the future, may enjoy the local color of passing events in his time, we have selected some chapters from that Diary for reprint in this HISTORY of the family.

David Swartz Metzger’s sons and daughters were born and lived some years at Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, the hometown region of the clan. So they personally knew their Grandmother Marica Swartz Armel, who still lived when they moved away to begin a new home at Fort Byron in Illinois on the Mississippi. It is with this background in Pennsylvania that he begins; for his children, on reaching this new environment, would forget the old.

Introduction

I was born May 22nd, 1817 in North Huntington Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, on a farm. My mother's maiden name was Marica Swartz. My father, Frederick, died in August 1824 and left my dear mother with five fatherless children, Daniel, George, John, David and Louisa. Daniel born 1811; John 1813; George 1815; David 1817; and Louisa 1819. After Father's death we moved to Grandfather Swartz' to Frog Town near Pleasant Unity and Grandfather Swartz died soon after that and we lived right among the Swartz families. Two of these daughters were married to two brothers, Henry and Paul Heugers and two to John and George Berger, one to Christopher Gardner, one to John Barnes and mother to father. Grandmother Swartz died in Mount Pleasant about 1834. All were of German descent. We lived right among these friends. This will be a fragmentary history I am trying to give you, but my memory is still good, especially of little things that occurred between four and five years of age. I carry a mark on my finger to this day that George gave me with an axe on the wood pile, and Louisa carried a mark all her life I gave her on the back of her hand with a hot poker. I tell you these little things to show you how far back my memory runs. Another thing among many I can mention. Some sheep had been killed and our big yellow dog was blamed for wool was found in his mouth. The boys put a rope on his neck and led him to a wood thicket, bent a sapling, tied one end of the rope to it and let it fly. The struggle is in my eye yet today. All these things happened before I was five for we moved from the farm before I was seven.

My uncles were tall men, and so was Grandfather (Frederick Metzger). He had a small bay mare. He used to ride over to Virginia to see Uncle Dan. He came to see us at the oil mill and brought chestnuts. I was to visit him. I was well acquainted with Uncle George. He used to come to Mount Pleasant on military review days with his corn stock gun and march the streets. It was always a great time when the county volunteers, cavalry and artillery, came with their tents. All you children know your Grandmother Metzgar, or Armel, as she was the wife of Daniel Armel soon after I went to Mount Pleasant. He died there and left Mother in good shape while she lived. You will remember your grandmother, who was strong and in good health. She kept a cow and had a pail of milk in her hand and was getting over a fence. She jumped down and caused a rupture and strangulated hernia. But Dr. Nelson murdered her. We sent to Greensburgh for a doctor who came, and doctors did not know anything about surgery and he got Dr. Nelson to do the work who slashed a cut across the rupture about four inches long and of course cut everything. My dear mother was murdered. Had I known as much as I do now something would have happened. Her life was ended at the age of 65 years and I think but for that botch she would have lived a hundred years.

Father had put up a linseed oil mill which was a very crude affair. I could build one like it today. In those early days in western Pennsylvania I can see those large

stone wheels about 8 feet grinding the flax seed and the large stompers to drive the wedges between the sacks of ground meal in a vat to press out the oil. John got on a large horizontal cog wheel to take a ride. It ran a small cog wheel and John hung one leg over the wheel and got a piece of his flesh taken off; he had a limp all his lifetime.

My father made saddle trees and much work was done with draw knife and wood against his breast. The doctor called his disease liver complaint. I don't know his age. He was a member of the United Brethren church and died in peace, and I hope to meet him in heaven.

I was the last to be put out to learn a trade so mother had Louisa and myself to care for, which she did by spinning flax and wool and any kind of work she could get to do. I put much of my time with my Uncles Swartz and Barnes. Uncle Swartz had a distillery in the basement of his dwelling and whiskey was his ruin—no temperance in those days. And as soon as I was big and able to carry the big-bellied bottle and water to harvest hands I was pressed into service. I could take a sip when I wanted it and once took too large a sip and the earth reeled around me.

I managed to get to Mother. She gave me some milk. I was sick and threw it up and that was the last time I took too much. Scythes for mowing grass and syckles and cradles for grain were the farming implements in those days. When nine years old I always found some work to do. I broke bark in a bark mill at a tanners and [lived] with Levi Gardner, a strong-smelling tanner handling all smelling hides, and much of my time with Uncle John Barnes who was so good and kind to me. But he loved his whiskey and kept it standing in different places. He never wanted me to see him take a drink but sometimes I could hear the cork squeak (sweet) in the night, even. Never saw him drunk; he reformed in his old days.

I had but a very poor chance for schooling in my early life but was taught to read and write. My arm was put in a wooden frame to hold it in place and a goose quill was the pen we used, no steel or gold pens then. At least none where I lived. And the teacher, Mr. Elder, would always open with prayer with closed eyes, but he seemed to be able to see any misbehavior of the boys or girls.

When I was about twelve years of age there was a man to be hanged for murder by the name of Evans at Greensburgh, the county seat of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, six miles from Pleasant Unity. After much begging and many promises my mother consented to let me go and I walked the six miles and back home with feelings of horror and regret. I could not banish the sight of the poor man shrugging his shoulders in the agonies of death on the gallows. The hanging was done in the open in a valley, hills on either side, covered with on-lookers, even some in trees. Thousands of them.

In the year 1840 there was the greatest excitement on the election of President when I cast my first vote for that important office. The word of the victorious was "Tippecanoe and Tyler too." Almost everything in the shape of business was put on wagons in a parade, blacksmith's shops, weavers' looms, and most everything

you could think of, with flags and bunting. And I even bought a razor with "Hurrah for Harrison" on it and have it still. Do not know whether it was made on the parade wagons or not. I did not vote for Harrison because I started out a Democrat. But he was a good man and so was the razor that bore his name.

We moved to Pleasant Unity into the old log house, one room. Soon built a frame addition. Mother kept the famous ginger bread and we had some boarders. I had not much to do then and lived part of my time with Uncle Paul Heuger [*sic*], a noble man. Did some work. He had a carding machine and oil mill. The power to run it was a large tramp wheel about 25 feet in diameter and I drove an old blind mare and two oxen, Buck and Berry. Did not like to drive oxen. It took so much sand. The wheel was on an incline.

Dear old Pleasant Unity was the place after all I loved the most. There was a school there with short sessions and my education was very limited, as I was put to learn a trade before I was 15 years of age. I could read and write, add and subtract and that was about all.

There was a military company met there on parade and it was a grand sight to us boys to see them with white pants, fine blue coats braided in style and feather plumes in their hats. We thought Dan Slonaker with his silver epaulets and lace trimming, a six-footer, the captain, a great man. It was always a good time for the old landlady, Mrs. Lizzie Buzzard, with the only hotel in the town. No church in the town then. The schoolhouse was used for what preaching there was.

Once on a holiday there was a shooting match at the hotel. In the morning I took a grist to Trauger's Mill and got a tip of 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents (we had 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ cent and 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cent coins then). When I got back I thought I might win a turkey with the tip so I tried my hand at raffling and lost my money and no turkey and that was the last of my gambling.

I was much better with my bow and arrow. One day as I was looking for something to shoot at I saw Lizzie Buzzard's geese were on a march and as old Mrs. Fry used to say the geese go in a gang by themselves and the gander by himself, so it was with these geese. The gander was in a gang by himself and I let the arrows hit him in the neck, and to my horror he fell and turned on his back, his feet reaching upward from the ground. I found a hiding place where I could see him. My heart was jumping with fear that he would die. But finally he got on his feet and walked away, and I was glad.

I must not tell any more of my boyish doings and will skip over many little things I might say, but pass on to the time I was indentured to David Keister in Mount Pleasant for five and a half years service to learn the tailor trade for board, clothing and six months school and those were the longest years of my life, though I had a good place. I was not yet 15 years of age and was confined closely with my legs crossed on a tailor board from daylight to dark and from November to Easter to ten o'clock at night. It is a wonder I am living today. I served my time in full and gained my freedom. Soon after I went to my trade I attended Methodist Meetings and became convinced I was unsaved and yielded to the strivings of the Holy Spirit. This was in May 1832, and I never had any

reason to regret the step I then took to unite in church fellowship. Not that I have been what I ought to be. I have made a thousand blunders and mistakes in my lifetime. I am glad the mercy of the Lord endureth forever and I trust I am a sinner saved by grace.

I did some work after 10 o'clock to make a little money for my own use. I had to find my own tallow dip and that was all the light we had and three of us sat around that one candle through the long winter's term and I sat there night after night after ten, about two hours making caps and stocks to wear in place of neckties and I had about one hundred dollars when I was free.

After I had my freedom I went to Pleasant Unity, worked a while for Bill Hood, then went to Shelocta, Indiana County, a small town. My brother Daniel had a store there—shoe shop, blacksmith, mill and tanner. I did some tailoring there. I went from there to Kittaning, Armstrong County, for a while and then back to Mount Pleasant. I was now over 21 and thought it my best plan to settle down and stay right there and bring to a close a short courtship. Mary Anne Crumback and I were joined in Holy Wedlock on August 30th, 1838, ceremony by Dr. S. Wakefield.

When I married I had but little to go on. I had a fair chance for hard work to make a living at my trade. I generally had all the work I could do. Had one or two journeymen and a boy or two to learn the trade. I made it a rule never to disappoint a customer. My customers came as far as 20 miles and I took all the time they could give to keep room for wedding suits and many times worked all night long, two or three of us sitting around a tallow candle. There was a man named George Low, a strange man in his speech, who came in one day. "Well, Mr. Metzgar, can you make me a coat?" I said, "Oh, yes, Mr. Low." "When can you make it?" "In three months." "That will do." So you see people were not in a rush.

Soon after I married I bought a house and lot for nine hundred dollars to pay one hundred annually and paid for it, and that was about all I could save in the year and was contented. You know our home was the home of the Methodist preacher, sometimes three on our circuit, when they went from Connellsville to Blairsville, Fayette county to Indiana county, preaching every place they could get a congregation. They were always welcome and about all they claimed as their own was a horse and many of them did like to exchange horses with me as I had one or two on hand all the time. One Brother Griffin came from Indiana, had an old gray horse and I could not well refuse him and traded. But he soon took sick and I sent George out to the barn to see him. George came in and told me "Father, he is better; he is sitting up." I went out there. He was sitting on his tail with his nose in the manger; had blind staggers and died. Marcellus will remember old Barney. He used to ride him to water over to Worman's trough and come back with all the boys he could find a place for from his neck to his tail. Barney was a good gentle horse.

The first 15 years of my married life I worked day and night and was glad to save one hundred dollars over expense. But the recollections of these years bring pleasure to my mind—a pleasant happy home, a loving companion and

dutiful children. And our home was the home of the circuit rider. Many happy hours we had with the heroes who laid deep the foundations of Methodism in western Pennsylvania. All have gone to their reward but the message they left behind them still lives. My life is linked to the earlier days of precious memory when such gospel messengers as James G. Sansom, Wakefield, Swazzie, Hunter, Battele, Hopkins, Eliot and a host of others all filled with the Holy Spirit and love for souls hungering for the bread of life.

Those dear old preachers are all gone long ago, and their like is no more to be heard in the land. Their main heart work was to save a perishing world then, and warnings, invitations and glorious promises. What would we know about God were it not for Divine revelation?

I never did like my trade of making garments and I finally had the opportunity to exchange my property for a farm. Having worked at it for about ten years after serving five and one-half years as apprentice. But soon I found I was not suited for a farmer. During one year's trial I sold for same as it cost me.

The Horse Market

We then moved back to Mount Pleasant. I had been some years dealing in horses. No railroads then so they were led over the mountains. I often saw as many as forty in a row with harness on the leaders, hitched to a rope with harness on the hind horses and the last tied to the rope. But I took seven all alone at a time and led them by way of Carlisle and Harrisburg to Lancaster where I always sold. I once got into Lancaster in the month of August and the Drovers who were there laughed at me and said they had been there six weeks and had not sold a horse. I told them I'd find sale for mine. Two men came in to look at my horses and went out awhile and coming back asked me if I would come out to Sondersburg, and said they would buy two of them. I was glad of the chance to get away from Lancaster. Next day was Saturday and I went to Sondersburg and found the men on hand who found room for the horses. There was but one hotel there and the landlord a corpse. On Sunday I went to the funeral about three miles to Strawsberg. On Monday morning I sold two horses to those two men and three to a merchant. Had two left and left for New Holland. These two men asked me if I knew why they had asked me to come there. I told them I thought they would want some cheap horses. They said that was not it but because I was not swearing around at everything and wanted to help a man out. Well, I had not got outside the town when I met a man who asked if I had those horses for sale. I said I had and asked if he wanted to buy. He said no, but his brother wanted one and if I would go with him he would take me to him. So I went with him and found him ploughing. He took one of his horses from the plough and put mine in. She did nicely. He tried well, took the trace chain and sawed her legs on the inside. She would not kick then. He put her with one of his to a broad wheel wagon and went into a stubble field, locked the wheels and she did well. He remarked that she did everything he wanted to do. "I will take her."

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²²⁴ As surmised from Westmoreland County - Biography etc. by John N. Boucher.

²²⁵ As surmised from *Heart of the World* by Ralph Adams Cram.

Index of Cemeteries and Burial Grounds

All identified cemeteries and burial grounds, not places of death, are indexed by location. Page numbers are printed in *italics* for individuals who were born or married into the family up to and including those in the third generation.

- Denver
Fairmount
 Lawrence, Gertrude Nickey
 Metsker, 166
- Illinois
Dover (Prairie Repose)
 Huffman, John, 143
 Huffman, Samuel, 142
 Weible, Daniel and Catherine,
 146
 Weible, Homer, 146
 Weible, Jacob and Elizabeth with
 two descendants, 145
 Weible, John, 146
 Williamson, Susan and Rev.
 Archelaus L., 146
- Port Byron
 Metzgar, David Swartz, 232
- Indiana
Cambridge City
 Metsker, William Forbes, 105
- Cassville
 Metsker, Sarepta, 104
- Cicero
 Metsker, Mahethalem, 105
- Concord (Churubusco)
 Metzger, Christian, II and
 Catharine Gnaegi, 155
 Metzger, Christian, II and
 Catharine Gnaegi, grand-
 children of, 155
- Eel River
 Grisamer, Anna Rose Metsker,
 165
 Grisamer, John H., 165
- Metsker, Nathaniel, 163
- Green Centre community
 Reed, David and Anna Metzger
 (Metsker), 159
 Reed, Enos, 159
- Lagrange Co.
 Medsker, Daniel, 105
 Medsker, Joseph, 105
- Winchester
 Medsker, Amanda, 104
- Kansas
Douglas
 Metsker, Cassius, 160
 Metsker, Christian, Jr., 160
 Metsker, Nancy Jane, 160
- Pleasant Hill (Coffey Co.)
 Mustard, Daniel Oliver and Ly-
 dia Ann Conn, 103
- Minnesota
Brainerd (Soldiers Cemetery)
 Mentzer, William Gsell, 109, 113
- Missouri
Kansas City (Forest Hill Cemetery)
 Metsker (Metzger), Martha, 106
- Kansas City (Union Cemetery)
 Metsker, Jehu Cain and Josina,
 104
- St. Louis
 Weible, Jacob, 132
- Nebraska
York
 Huffman, Mary, 141
- Ohio

CHRISTIAN METZGER: FOUNDER OF AN AMERICAN FAMILY

- Crooked Run
 Schear, Adam, 139
 Schear, Alfred, 139
 Schear, infants, 139
 Weible, Catherine, 139
 Weible, Frederick, 133
 Weible, Nancy Metzger, *n. 132*
 131, 133
 Weible, Nancy Metzger, children
 of, 133
 near Chester Hill (Liberty Ceme-
 tery)
 Metzger, Sarah Ann (Sadie), 175
 Westerville
 Schear, Lydia Jane Weible, 139
- Pennsylvania
 Alliance Furnace
 Gynn, Catharine (Katy) Metz-
 ger, *n. 8191*
- Barren Run
 Lash, Elizabeth, 181
 Medsger, Anna Elnora, 181
 Medsger, George and Rosanna
 Friedt, 174
 Medsger, Jacob L. and Nancy
 Aspey, 178
 Medsger, Jefferson and Rebecca,
 183
 Medsger, Joseph E., 179
 Medsger, Rev. Joseph and Harriet
 Smith, 180
 Metsger, David family, 192
 Metzger, Anna Schleiffer, 91
 Metzger, George, 172
- Barren Run United Brethren
 Church
 Medsger, Elizabeth Hough, 185
 Medsger, Henry Harrison, 185
 Metsger, Samuel Metsger, 187
 Weible, Nancy Metzger, Div. 4:
 evergreen tree in memory
 of, 75
- Fairfield
 Medgser, Margaret Isabella
 Campbell, 180
- Franconia Mennonite
 Schleiffer, Joseph, 85
- Greensburg (St. Clair Cemetery)
 Medsger, Mary Catherine, 180
- Hoffman Lutheran
 Medsger, Mary Ann, 185
 Medsger, Sarah, 176
 Metzger, Henry, 186, 194
 Metzger, Frederick, 75
 Metzger, Rachel Espey, 76
 Indiana Co. (Armaugh)
 Medsger, Margaret Isabella, 181
 Lutheran (Spring Hill Twp.)
 Mustard, James and Sarepta
 Medsker, 102
- Mars Hill Meeting House and
 Burying Ground, *see* Penn-
 sylvania, Peter Pool Ceme-
 tery
- Mt. Olive Evangelical United
 Brethren Church
 Metsger, Hannah, 194
 Whipkey, Harmon, 194
 Whipkey, Mary Ruth, 194
- New Goshenhoppen Reformed
 Church
 Schleiffer, Daniel, 85
 Schleiffer, Henry and Veronica,
 83, 84
 Schleiffer, John, 85
- Old Zionsville Lutheran Church
 Metzger, Christian and Anna
 Catharina Häuser, 61
- Peter Pool Cemetery near Mars
 Hill Meeting House and
 Burying Ground
 Metzgar, Frederick, Jr., 120-121
- Pleasant Unity
 Metzgar-Armel, Marica Swartz,
 123
- Strasburg United Brethren
 Seese, Christian and Maria
 Metzger (Metsker), 157
- Zionsville
 Friedts, 168
- West Virginia
 Cheat Baptist Church
 Cain, Richard, 102
 Medsker, Daniel and Rachael
 (Cain) Lyons, 102
- Grafton (Bluemont Cemetery)
 Medsker, Daniel, Jr. and Dianah
 Stafford, 109

Index of Cemeteries

- Medsker, Elvira, 109
Medsker, Miles, 110, 113
Mentzer, Rachel Hester Meds-
ker, 113
Lost Creek Burying Ground
Medsker, Elizabeth, 114
- Medsker, Mary A., 114
Medsker, Olfrey L., 114
Medsker, others unnamed, 114
Medsker, Rachel, 114
Thornberry, Jacob, 114

Index of Family Stories

If a Metzger family member cannot be located, check for an alternate spelling. Those in the first and second generations and in Division 2 retained the original. Spellings were changed beginning in the third or following generations: Medsker and Medscar, less frequently Metzgar and Metzker (Division 1), Metsker (Division 2, possibly), Metzgar (Division 3), Metsker (Division 5), Medsger (Division 6), and Metzger (Division 7); Anna (Nancy) Metzger Weible founded Division 4. The spelling of European names was not standardized until the mid-1800s.

- Appleseed, Johnny (Jonathan Chapman)
 traditional connection with Frederick Metzger, 2nd generation, n.168 170
- Eberle, Heinrich
 missed the boat to America in 1727, 77
- Friedt, Rosanna
 left alone in the wild at 5 years while traveling to Westmoreland, 169
- Gans family
 related to George Washington, 103
- Heidelberg Company, 67
- Hickory Indians
 care for Veronica Ulrich Eberly, 78-79
- Marsh family
 founders of Hartford, Connecticut, 177
- Medsger, Jacob
 experiences in California, 170-171
- Medsker, Daniel, Div. 1
 letter of triumph on the occasion of the death of his son Albert and grandchild, 98-99
 slave story, 95-96
- Medsker, Miles
 death, 113
- Mentzer, Rachel Hester Medsker
 first sighting of B & O train in Grafton, West Virginia, 112
 hiding in the corn fields all night with baby Miles, 112
 paid schools, 112
- Metsger, David
 canceling a trip to a Negro camp meeting because his children thought it would be fun, 192
 daily production and pay for making shoes, 192
- Metzgar, David Swartz, *see also* Appendix B, his autobiography
 anecdotes about his wig, 128
 learns of his Uncle Daniel's children, 107
 witnesses a hanging, 219
- Metzgar, Frederick, Jr., Div. 3
 grave, 120-121
- Metzgar, Marica Swartz
 tribute by David Swartz Metzgar, 122
- Metzger, Anna Schleiffer, her supply of pies, 76, 135
- Metzger, Christian
 takes oath of allegiance to King George, 39
- Metzger, Christian, II, Div. 5
 names Churubusco, Indiana, 155
 names Strasburg, Ohio, 152
- Metzger, Frederick

CHRISTIAN METZGER: FOUNDER OF AN AMERICAN FAMILY

- walk from Barren Run to Ohio, 75
- Metzger, Frederick and Anna Schleifer
 - the preacher's home, 135
- Metzger, George, Div. 6
 - Billy's spelling difficulties, 167-168
 - first business venture and connection with George Washington, n.167 169
 - funeral, 172
 - prays in German, 171
 - Third Battle of Bull Run and other animal stories, 167, 168, 172
 - tribute by George Eumenes Medsker, 173-174
- Metzger, Nancy, Div. 4
 - meets George Washington, 71-72, 130, 133
- Mustard, Sarepta Medsker
 - herb doctor, 103
- Nonagenarians, 142
 - Bickett, Margaret Weible, 142
 - Huffman, Lydia Jane, 142
 - Metzger, David Swartz, 142
 - Weible, Nancy Metzger, Div. 4, 142
- School teacher contract 1843, 202-203
- Schoolhouse prank in Barren Run, 201
- Seese, Maria
 - visits by train to family in Indiana from Ohio, 158
- Shafferman, Mrs. E. Fred (Pearl Hammond)
 - brought up by her grandmother, Rachel Hester Medsker Mentzer, 113
- Ulrich Eberly, Veronica
 - cow bell story, 79
- Veterans
 - Civil War
 - Bickett, Andrew, 145
 - Huffman, Jacob, 141, 144
 - Huffman, John, 143, 144
 - Huffman, Samuel, 142, 144
 - Mentzer, William Gsell, 113
 - Metzger, Marcellus, 226
 - Rice, Henry Nickey, 158
 - War of 1812
 - Weible, Daniel, 146
 - Weible, husband to Margaret, 145
 - Weible, William Reinhart, 137
 - Spanish American War
 - Longwell, Matthew, 105
 - War of 1812
 - Metzger, Daniel, 99-100
 - Metzger, Frederick, Jr., 99-100, 121
 - War of Independence
 - Metzger, Frederick, 47-50, 67-69, 75
 - World War I
 - Hill, Walter B., 179
 - World War II
 - descendants of Medsker, Olfrey, 114
 - Schweisberger, Harold, 191
- War of 1812
 - Metzger, Frederick, Jr., 121
- Washington, George
 - George Metzger connection, n.167 169
 - meets Nancy Metzger, 71-72, 130, 133
 - related to Gans family, 103
- Weible, Frederick
 - matching saddles with horses at the 4th General Conference of the United Brethren Church, 140
- Weible, Henry
 - political and business interests, 147
- Weible, Jacob
 - venture to St. Louis, 131-132
- Weible, Nancy Metzger, Div. 4
 - reflections by George Weible, Jr., 132-133
 - tribute by A. R. Bower, 133-134
 - tribute by E. W. E. Schear, 134-136
 - visit to Indiana, 132
- Weible, Stephen
 - first Weible in Westmoreland County, Penna., 136
- Weible-Huffman, Fanny
 - her work and pay, 144
 - visit to Nancy Metzger Weible in Ohio from Illinois, 144