

# EIGHTEENTH CENTURY PENNSYLVANIA MERTZ AND MARTZ

## A WORK IN PROGRESS

(A Research White Paper by C Oakley Mertz, [mertzgenealogy.com](http://mertzgenealogy.com))

The issue comes up all the time. Someone traces their ancestry to a Mertz male born before 1800 who came from Eastern Pennsylvania. They want to know: Who was his father? Which immigrant line? Sometimes I can help them, sometimes I can't. If the person seeking this information is a male named Mertz or Martz or knows one they are closely related to, then y-chromosome DNA can definitely help. But so far, even with now about two dozen of us named Mertz or Martz who have submitted our DNA, there remain many questions and unproven relationships. It is clear there were a number of different *unrelated* immigrant lines to be traced and we may not yet know all of them.

Many of the original immigrants named Mertz settled first in Berks County, PA and so I have decided to summarize in this one document everything I have been able to learn to date about several of these various immigrant lines and their descendants for the first several generations. I intend to update this document over time as new information becomes available -- so by all means, anyone reading it please bring to my attention additional facts I have missed or remind me of something I may have forgotten -- and certainly please correct any errors I may have made herein or tell me your opinion if it is contrary to mine. As we come across additional facts in the future, this will provide a framework to fit them into. Ultimately, I would like to think we can identify every male Mertz/Martz born before 1800 in Eastern Pennsylvania and answer the question -- at least for them -- who was their father?

SIX IMMIGRANTS. Many people have scoured the various transcriptions of the lists of German (or Palatinate) immigrants who arrived in Philadelphia after 1727 (when the law requiring such lists went into effect) -- looking for anyone of the Mertz or Martz name. There were many of them but six that we know of, for sure, settled in Berks County, and they are the starting point of this analysis.

One of the six was David Mertz who brought his teenage sons Nicholas and Peter with him and for purposes of now considering their descendants, I will treat Nicholas and Peter as the original immigrants. Their descendants, of course, were also descendants of David. So, I hereby designate these five Berks County Pioneer Mertz immigrants with a unique single letter identifier. They were:

Nicholas (N)	Peter (P)	John Henry (H)	Jost (Y)	Johannes (J)
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DOCUMENTS ARE KEY. This analysis is based as much as it can be on documented evidence -- the kind of things found in church records (like a baptism), wills (that name one's children), property deeds (that name one's heirs), Census, tax records, ships passenger lists, tombstones and so forth.

Too much genealogy nowadays is not based on documented evidence -- but rather "sourced" to things that simply aren't sources at all:

- Like a family tree on [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) — they are often horribly wrong and cannot be trusted. A huge mistake in one gets copied to dozens (in some cases hundreds) of others with no one asking the simple question: is this really true?
- Like a published family history — same problem, mistakes were made and many were published years ago before many true sources we can readily find today were so readily available. Many relevant facts had simply not yet been discovered
- Like DAR Patriot listings and the descendant charts attached to them — I've seen too many with serious errors
- Like all those published county histories (e.g. Historical and Biographical Annals of Berks County Pennsylvania by Morton Montgomery, History of Lehigh County Pennsylvania and Biographical

Record of its Families by Charles Rhoads Roberts, Genealogical and Biographical Annals of Northumberland County J L Floyd publisher). It is very hard in this genre of things, mostly published around the year 1900, to separate fact from fiction and they contain a lot of fiction

Now, of course, any of those kinds of things may provide a lead to follow-up and may even prove valuable if they in turn cite a real source that can be tracked down and verified. And, also, of course, documents too can sometimes be wrong. The transcription (as recorded in the Northampton County Registrar's book) of the will of John Henry Mertz who died in 1788 named only 7 of his 9 children because in the process of doing the transcription the Registrar merged two persons into one and skipped the one in between entirely. In another example, when John Henry baptized his son John George, the church record as transcribed listed the infant as "Georg Valentine" and it totally mis-stated his mother's name, as if John Henry momentarily had a different wife. I believe that two separate baptisms were mistakenly scrambled together, that the infant was John George and that the name Valentine does not pertain. So transcriptions, too, should be verified whenever possible.

Because of my interest in all things Mertz, I have made a special effort to find any and all relevant documents -- wills, deeds, church records -- especially in Berks County but also Northampton (including Lehigh). And because all of my father's ancestors were in Eastern Pennsylvania by the 1750's, many earlier, I have always noted any Mertz mention even if I was examining some source for some other family. I certainly will not claim to have found absolutely everything out there, but I will say, I doubt there are any easy to find and obvious documents that I have not yet found.

DEDUCTION/ANALYSIS IS SOMETIMES NECESSARY. Now, having said everything needs to be documented, not everything can be. If a man existed, he had a father. So, sometimes I have to resort to logical deduction and/or the process of elimination. Here are a few examples:

- My ancestor John David Mertz had two sons -- Nicholas and Peter. When Nicholas died, orphan's court records identified all his children. When Peter died, he named only three of his sons in his will but clearly he had other sons and I have linked the others to Peter by the process of elimination. They were of the Longswamp Reformed Church, their age indicates they were of the grandsons-of-John-David-generation, they were not named sons of Nicholas -- therefore, they had to be Peter's sons.
- Jost Mertz married Anna Maria Seip or Seib. She outlived him and it is carved on her tombstone that she had three sons. When Richard, one of her known sons died, the administration record of his estate noted the names of his two brothers -- Conrad and Henry. Now before I knew all this, from time to time, as we've tried to identify people, I would wonder if maybe they could be a son of Jost. The answer, I now know, is no -- because I now know he had only three sons and I know their names.
- There was a man named Daniel Mertz, who we know was born in 1779, married in Maxatawney Township, Berks County in 1806 and later moved to Dauphin County. The question was who was Daniel's father and documents just don't directly answer the question. Logic suggested possibly it was John Philip, oldest son of John Henry, who lived in Maxatawney in the 1790, 1800 and 1810 Census -- but it went "unproven" until Patty and Edgar Mertz found a tax record that clearly linked John Philip and Daniel -- one paid the Maxatawney taxes for both of them. They simply had to be father and son.

Now I will add that there are several instances in this analysis where neither real documents nor deductive reasoning will solve a puzzle and I have, in those few cases, resorted to either making an educated guess or even relying on one of the kinds of sources I stress to people are not to be relied upon. However, in such cases, I will try very hard to make that clear -- that I am making a guess and I will state the basis for my reasoning.

And I will add that I am always on the lookout for “discordant notes”. In the few cases where I do have to resort to making an educated guess, I will *not* do that if certain facts I presume true would seem to contradict my conclusion. Some facts rule things in, others rule things out. Any theory must be consistent with all known facts.

UNIQUE NAMES. One of the big problems with researching everyone of the Mertz/Martz name in the geographic area of interest is that several names were all too common. In this document, we will meet a dozen men named Jacob Mertz (or Martz), born in eastern Pennsylvania before 1800. And we’ll meet ten men named Heinrich or Henry and nine named Johannes or John. And there were multiple men named Daniel, Abraham, Philip and Conrad -- and I’m referring to names that were used in the lines of more than one of the immigrants. With these names, you have to be very careful in the analysis.

On the other hand, there are a few names, thankfully, that are unique or at least restricted to just one line. The name Nicholas only occurred in John David’s line. There were at least three of them, but none in any other unrelated family to confuse things. So too the name David. There were too many of them, too, and they have been confused with each other, but again all of them (in the timeframe of interest here) were descendants of John David, the immigrant.

Now consider Jost and his son Richard. They were the only ones with their name, period. They make things easy. Same with Melchior, son of Johannes, there was only one.

SOURCE REFERENCES. I am not bothering to append the actual source references to all the facts I am citing herein. I often indicate sources with shorthand references in context -- such as I may refer to someone’s tombstone, without giving all the facts on their tombstone or even where you can find it. You can go to my database on my website to find sources well documented. And for most of these people, I am *summarizing* what I may know about them -- including for example, I am leaving daughters out of the discussion entirely though I may know as much about them as their brothers -- but again all of that additional information can be found in my database.

NUMBERING SYSTEM. I have developed a numbering system (well letters and numbers) so each and every male we encounter can be given a unique identifier and the identifier will convey information on that person’s lineage. This system will help if anyone wants to follow-up with me on anyone, you can refer to them by their unique number. And, if after having introduced a person, I need to refer to them again in this analysis, I can use their identifier so it is clear who I am talking about.

The numbering system starts with the single letter code assigned one of the five immigrants -- N, P, H, Y, J -- to uniquely identify them. The system is that their sons can be numbered 1, 2, 3, etc. -- so for example H1 will designate the oldest son of immigrant H. Now I don’t always know everyone’s birth order so while the numbering implies a birth order, sometimes it will be an “estimated” birth order. Then lower case letters denote the next generation and numbers follow. So a person designated H4e3 is the third son (3) of the fifth (e) son of the fourth son (4) of immigrant H. OK?

And note again that the numbering system ignores David, though I really consider him *my* immigrant Mertz ancestor. David arrived with his wife, daughter and two sons: Nicholas age 18 and Peter 15 (the ship’s captain said 13, in error we think) — I call the sons the teenage immigrants. *Their* sons were born in years overlapping other second generation sons of the other three immigrants and have been confused with them over the years. So, to better align things in terms of the timeframes and generations they were born, I have given Nicholas the letter code N and Peter the letter code P and did therefore not need to actually assign a code to David. This just makes things more parallel.

MERTZ OR MARTZ. Since my name is spelled Mertz, I am a little uncomfortable making things sound like I am the arbiter as to which spelling is correct. They both are, really. But I do know this. In Berks County, all four lines were most often spelled Mertz (or Merz at times in the records of Mertz Church).

Back in Alsace when my ancestors lived there, the name was spelled Mertz and still is today by my very distant cousins still living in about the same place today. Before Alsace, the family lived in Switzerland, where the name was spelled Merz.

And back in Frankenhausen, Germany where John Henry (H) and Jost (Y) came from, the spelling was Mertz and still is today.

The Martz spelling, quite common today, appeared later in all these lines, in the U.S., especially when people moved. I've seen it in other families -- it was the relocation of someone to a new county that precipitated a new spelling. Marts became the name of many of these people when they moved. And Marts is an infrequent variation.

My ancestor, Hans Peter, the teenage immigrant denoted P had five sons who moved to Northumberland County before 1790. For two of them, the ones who settled just west of the Susquehanna River, the Mertz spelling was retained, although in certain cases when descendants later moved, some of them changed to Marts. For the three sons who settled just east of the Susquehanna River, the Marts spelling was adopted at the outset. It does seem that once the name changed to Marts, it didn't later change back.

DNA RESULTS. Under the auspices of Family Tree DNA, we have had a Mertz/Marts DNA project running for several years. To date, as it relates to Eastern Pennsylvania, two distinct clusters of related people have emerged. They are related within their cluster but the two clusters are not related, one to the other. I have nick-named these two groups the Alsace/Longswamp group and the Mertz Church group.

- The Alsace/Longswamp group includes people known to be descended from John David or his Alsace (or Swiss) ancestors. Many of John David's descendants moved first to Northumberland County and then subsequent generations spread out from there. In addition, at least one other immigrant (Gottfried Mertz who came to St. Louis in the 1840's) was related to David but not descended from him. And finally, we now have someone in this group still living in the Alsace area of what is now France whose ancestors never came to America. So, Longswamp is not necessarily a part of the heritage of all persons with this DNA. They all share Alsace, a subset shares Longswamp.
- The Mertz Church group started out as known descendants of John Henry Mertz (H), founder of Mertz Church, and several persons who can trace their ancestry to Berks County, and in fact Mertz Church, but not yet specifically to any particular immigrant. Then we found a known descendant of Jost (Y) whose DNA clearly places him in this group and I am convinced we have proven beyond any reasonable doubt that Jost and John Henry were brothers. That leaves Johannes (J) who was also named briefly in the records of Mertz Church as the mystery man. Was he also related to John Henry, a cousin perhaps? For those persons seemingly connected to Mertz Church but whose ancestry is not totally clear, we can absolutely rule out John David as their ancestor, by the DNA itself, but cannot rule out any of the other immigrants. Either John Henry or Jost might be their possible immigrant ancestor, but the jury is still out as to Johannes.

## THE IMMIGRANTS

So here are the six immigrants, including the five assigned a capital letter designator — N, P, H, Y, J

**DAVID.** The earliest of the immigrants was David Mertz (his full name was indeed John David but he was almost always referred to, even in church records, as just David). He arrived in 1733 with wife Veronica, sons Nicholas and Peter and daughter Christina. (His sister, her husband and several of their children were on the same ship.) The names David, Nicholas and Peter Mertz were listed as founders and early elders of the Longswamp Reformed Church in Longswamp Township, Berks County. In my opinion, based on my research and confirmed by DNA, they had no relationship whatsoever to the other Mertz immigrants discussed here. David and his family were of the Reformed religion, the others here were Lutheran; they

stayed (you could say off by themselves) in Longswamp Township until the 1780's or so when most of David's grandsons moved to Northumberland County, PA. Their movements and their activities never brought them into contact with any of the other early Mertzes of Berks County. David was born about 1690 and died perhaps about 1750. His father was named Peter and he died in Alsace and Peter's father Jacob, who emigrated to Alsace from Menizken, Switzerland, also died in Alsace.

**N.** Nicholas, son of David, was born about 1715 (baptized 8 Sep 1715, ship's captain's list gave his age as 18 in 1733). He died in 1760 (Berks County Orphans Court). His wife was Margaret. His sons were: Jacob, Henry, Conrad and Nicholas. I only know the exact birth year for Henry but can estimate the others fairly closely based on the fact that only Jacob was "of age" when Nicholas died, the others were minors.

**P.** Peter, son of David, was born about 1717 (baptized 28 Dec 1717, ship's captain's list apparently gave his age as 13 in 1733, perhaps he really wrote 15). He died in 1787 (will proved 7 Aug 1787). His will named deceased son John and named sons Nicholas and Peter as Executors and they alone disposed of his land after his death. So there is no document that names any other of Peter's sons all of whom were born/baptized before records were kept.

However, I have done an extensive analysis of the records of the Longswamp Reformed Church (see research white paper on my website) to identify every Mertz named in those records and I believe, based on that analysis, I have identified every one of Peter's sons -- Peter, David, John, Philip, Nicholas, Jacob and Abraham. I have an exact birth date (from a tombstone) in one case, an estimated birth year for another (he stated his age when he wrote his will) and approximate birth years for several others because of when they were first named, as single men, on Berks County (Longswamp) tax records from the 1760's. The name of Peter's wife is not known.

**H.** The second adult immigrant, after David (with Nicholas and Peter), was John Henry Mertz who came in 1737. We have found his 1709 baptism record in Germany and I believe he was baptized not long after his birth, indicating a 1709 birth. Descendants say, with no proof I am aware of, he was born about 1708. His wife was Anna Maria Rosemann. His name can be found often in association with Mertz Church of Rockland Township, named in fact for him, as he gave the land for it. He died in Northampton County in 1788 and from the records of various churches in that county, the case can be made that some of his sons found their way to Northampton County before 1800, some of those in the part of the county that later would become Lehigh County when it was carved from Northampton in 1812. The baptisms of all of his children were recorded at Mertz Church and he named all his surviving children in his will. His sons were: Philip, Wilhelm, Jacob, Heinrich, John George and George Henrich.

**Y.** Now we come to Jost Mertz who arrived in 1748. Jost is a very interesting immigrant for several reasons:

- His is a unique name. Do a google search on the name -- and you basically find just him. Enter it in the search engine of Ancestry.com -- same thing. Every observation appears to be him.
- After his 1748 arrival on the ship *Patience*, the next mention of Jost was his marriage -- at Mertz Church -- followed by baptisms of several children there. He married Anna Maria Seip in 1757.
- There is a German family living today in Frankenhausen, Germany and their family history is constructed strictly from German records -- knowing nothing about any Mertzes once they came to America. And, in their family, there was a Jost Mertz born in Germany in 1724 and the German family's information is "went to America in 1748, nothing more known of him."
- The German records also say Jost had an older brother named John Henry Mertz, born according to those German records, in 1709. The records do not say that Henry emigrated but they do not say anything else about him -- so it cannot be ruled out. Remember that descendants of John Henry Mertz

of Mertz Church say he was born about 1708, but with no real evidence I am aware of. Doesn't it seem that this must be one and the same man?

- I learned of this German family from a German woman who descends from Johan Henrich Mertz, father of both John Henry 1709 and Jost 1724. She found my website and wrote to thank me for finding their long lost Jost. Until I heard from her, I had only just suspected that Jost and John Henry of Mertz Church may have been brothers. Her information added a lot of credibility to that theory — but even so it still remained unproven in my mind.
- So why did I think Jost and John Henry may have been brothers? Wouldn't that explain why Jost found his way to Mertz Church after he came to America? Wouldn't that explain why Heinrich Mertz was a witness to the will of Jost in 1764 (I don't know any other Heinrich of an age to have done so other than John Henry)? Wouldn't that explain why Conrad Mertz was a witness to John Henry's will. John Henry said he wrote it while still in Rockland Township where Jost's son Conrad was still living — it had to be that Conrad, right? Wouldn't that explain why John Henry and Jost's sons were close in later years? They seem in some cases to have moved to the same place in Northampton County and possibly stood as sponsors for a baptism of their cousin's children.
- And so now we know. A man named Dennis Martz came forward with DNA that places him absolutely in the Mertz Church group and I am certain I have traced his ancestry to Jost. There is now no doubt in my mind that John Henry and Jost were brothers.
- But at least it helps, that after working on these families for several years, I was able to identify with certainty the names of Jost's only three sons.
- Before that finding, anything was possible. Anyone whose DNA matched John Henry's DNA could be the son or grandson of Jost and almost nothing could exclude it. Now, knowing that Jost had only three sons and knowing their names and approximate birth years, some things can be ruled out.
- The key finding was that Anna Maria's tombstone truly has etched in stone that she had 3 sons and 2 daughters. I had seen this information before but didn't realize it was truly on her tombstone as opposed just something someone was saying about her.
- Anna Maria and Jost baptized son Conrad at Mertz Church in 1760 and Reichart (Richard) in 1761. Reichart too was a unique name. I know of no other Reichart (or Richard) in Berks County or nearby in the timeframe of interest here. And then when Reichart died the administrators of his estate were Henry and Conrad, his two brothers.
- Bingo. I now knew the names of Jost's three sons: Richard, Conrad, Henry. I believe Henry may have been the oldest perhaps born about 1755.

**J.** The remaining immigrant to identify here is Johannes Mertz. He too found his way to Mertz Church and was mentioned in their records. The thing I don't know for certain is whether Johannes was the immigrant of that name who came in 1746 or was instead the immigrant listed as Hans Martz who came in 1751. I had always thought Johannes was the 1746 immigrant as that is what Morton Montgomery said but then I read a published family history that mentioned Johannes (the one associated with Mertz Church) as the other guy -- Hans in 1751. I consider neither source authoritative and will simply say I don't know which was Johannes (though I still lean to the 1746 guy) but it really doesn't matter. We're discussing here the Johannes associated with Mertz Church. Let me make some statements we do know apply to him:

- When he married Rosina Haffa (or Hasse) in 1756, his marriage was recorded in the records of Moselem Church where it was said he was the son of Johannes of Stockhausen, Wurttemberg,

Germany. That was a record written by the minister who married them and I have seen other similar citations for immigrants and I have no reason to think it wrong.

- Now there are some people that say John Henry was of Stockhausen. My father's cousin who did his genealogy in about 1970 told me I was descended from John Henry which was not true and he also told me John Henry came from Stockhausen, also not true. (When I later went to Germany and asked German friends where Stockhausen was, they said it just means "village" as opposed a particular village.)
- But the truth is the record says that about Johannes and only Johannes. Perhaps people mistakenly thought that record was talking about John Henry, but it wasn't, it was about Johannes. Perhaps they assumed that John Henry and Johannes were brothers. But that is also not true since we know the names of John Henry's father — it was not Johannes — and we know the names of all of John Henry's brothers, there was no brother Johannes.
- If we could ever find a known descendant of Johannes, then his DNA could prove whether or not John Henry and Johannes were related or not. Until then I just don't know.
- Johannes is the only one of this whole group of immigrants that I cannot be certain I can name all of his sons. He baptized son Melchior (named after his wife's father -- another unique name) at Mertz Church in 1765 and son Johannes at Moselem in 1757. And he baptized several daughters. But there could be other sons, who knows?
- Now many sources -- Charles A Fisher of Snyder County, Morton Montgomery, various family trees on Ancestry.com -- say he also had a son Peter. I can't prove that relationship as well as most others I cover herein, but there is some evidence that suggests it may be true.
- As an aside, in the records of Rev Stoever, there is record of the birth of Maria Barbara Mertz in 1751 daughter of Johannes of (or at) Northkill. It is not at all clear who this Johannes was -- another immigrant or this Johannes with a first wife prior to Rosina?
- Johannes died in 1773.
- And a final point. Back to those German records regarding the family of Johan Heinrich, father of John Henry and Jost — he did not have a brother Johannes. So I know Johannes the immigrant was not a brother to John Henry and Jost and I think I can rule out he was a first cousin. But he might have been a more distant cousin.

CENSUS ANALYSIS. All of the immigrants -- all six of them, including David and the five designated died before the 1790 Census. But their first generation descendants, for the most part, did appear in one or more Censuses.

Now saying which known person was which in Census is far from an exact science. For many of the people in this analysis, either because they didn't move or because they had a unique name or because I know from other documents where exactly they did move -- I can identify them in each Census with reasonable certainty. For others -- especially those named John/Johannes or Henry/Heinrich, and especially when they moved -- I can't always be sure which is which, so I have to resort to a little guesswork based usually on who else lives near them and their age as stated in Census. And one of the surprising things in Census is there were some people of the Mertz/Martz name I can't identify. But I continue to try to research everyone of this name, so some day that may not be the case..

So, for each of these people, if I think I have been able to track them with reasonable certainty in Census, or even if I think I can make an educated guess, I have put a summary of their Census appearances as part of my summary of who they were and where they lived. I have found the most efficient way to find anyone of this name in the Census files of Ancestry.com and avoid as many non-relevant people as

possible, is to use wild-cards and search for M?rt? -- that finds Mertz, Merts, Martz, Marts and other variations including Murtz and Marty (sometimes the “z” was mis-read as a “y”). In addition, over the years, because I have made a special effort to find a few of these people, I’ve included other specific mispellings as well. Here is the format I will use for Census listings.

Census year / Name as indexed by Ancestry.com / Census Place / Age / My Comment

I have tracked as many of these known people through 1830 with a few citations for later years just to establish where people moved.

## THE DESCENDANTS

### THE LONGSWAMP/NORTHUMBERLAND MERTZES

Descendants of Nicholas “N”.

**N1 John Jacob.** Jacob was born about 1738, we know he was Nicholas’ only son who was not a minor when Nicholas died in 1760. Jacob moved to Northumberland County by 1785 or so and by 1800 had moved on to western NY State. Jacob’s wife was Magdalena.

1790 / Jacob Martz Sr. / Northumberland /

1800 / Jacob Marts / Sparta, Ontario, NY / 45+ /

1810 / Jacob Mar?? / Avon, Ontario, NY / 45+

Jacob had three sons: **N1a Conrad** born 23 Jan 1760, **N1b David** about 1765 and **N1c Jacob Jr.** 15 May 1777 -- and all moved with him to, first Northumberland County and then NY State. A more complete analysis of this family can be found in a research white paper on my website and in my database. But here is a summary of the sons in Census.

1790 / Conrad Mertz / Northumberland /

1800 / Cunrod Martin / Canisteo Steuben, NY / 26-45

1810 / Conrod Marts / Caledonia, Genesee, NY / 45+

1820 / Conrad Marks / Madison, Butler, OH / 45+

1830 / Konrad Marts / Henry, IN / 60-69

David was also listed in 1810 in Caledonia and Jacob Jr. in 1820 and 1830 in Sparta then Erie County, PA in 1840. Most of his family moved also to Erie County.

**N2 Henry.** According to Charles A Butz (who transcribed Longswamp Church records and added additional information he seemed to know from other sources) Heinrich was born 27 Jul (?) 1743 and died 17 Jul 1821. He married Maria Catharina Heckman 28 Jan 1766, daughter of Peter.

Heinrich Mertz and wife Catharina appeared as sponsors at a 1779 baptism and Henry was mentioned four more times in the records of Longswamp, always a sponsor, never a father and always with wife Catharina. The additional mentions were 1782, 1788, 1790 and finally 1806. Thus, after the mass exodus of Longswamp Mertzses to Northumberland County, Henry was one of the few Mertz males left in Longswamp. He was listed among the taxables in 1801 in Longswamp. I am not aware of any children for this couple.

Henry was in fact the only Mertz listed in Longswamp in the 1790 Census. The problem is if he lived to 1821, he should be present also in the 1800, 1810 and 1820 Census -- but I can’t account for him. To be sure, there are plenty of Henry’s in Census, but I think I have matched the others up. However, in 1822, letters were issued on the estate of Henry Mertz of Longswamp.

1790 / Henry Mertz / Long Swamp, Berks / where is he in 1800-1820?



**N3 Conrad.** On 29 Jan 1760, Conrad Mertz sponsored the baptism of his nephew and namesake, **N1a Conrad**, son of **N1 Jacob**. So his age is a little tricky to determine since he was a minor in 1760 when his father died yet old enough to stand as a sponsor. So my best guess is he was born around 1745. Conrad's wife was Margaret.

I do not believe that Conrad moved to Northumberland County with his brother and cousins. The Conrad who did appear there in 1790 was his nephew, **N1a Conrad**, I believe, who then moved to NY State with his father.

But back in Berks and neighboring counties, there was this Conrad born about 1745 and Jost's son **Y2 Conrad** born in 1760. In 1790, one lives in Rockland Township and the other in Windsor Township. It would make sense that **Y2 Conrad** was the one in Rockland Township, but it doesn't really matter. What matters is which was which after that. From their ages, it is pretty clear that the younger **Conrad Y2** lived in Macongie Township, Northampton (later Lehigh) County in 1800 1810 and 1820. And so it must be this Conrad in Berks County (unincorporated township) in 1800 and then he disappears from the record.

1790 / Cond Mertz / Windsor, Berks /

1800 / Conrad Martz / Berks (township unincorporated) / 45+

**N3a Henry.** I know that Conrad had a son Heinrich born 5 Sep 1765 baptized at Longswamp Church. Conrad and unnamed wife also baptized an unnamed child at Oley in 1767. But which Henry was he?

By 1810, there were four Henry's in Census in either Berks or Northampton plus G Henry (George Henry I assume) in Northampton. I am pretty sure I can reasonably say who several were, but not all. See my comments too on the other Henry's. (**N2, H4, H6a and Y3**).

One of the Henry's was age 26-45 in Mannheim Township in 1800 and then age 45+ in 1810 in the same place. Mannheim Township was then Berks County but by 1820 was Schuylkill County. Since I don't know what happened to **N3a Henry**, since I don't know who Mannheim Henry was, since I feel pretty good I have figured out who the other early Henry's in Census were, and since the age of Henry of Mannheim seems to fit, I believe that **N3a Henry** was Henry of Mannheim.

I also know that one of the Henry Mertz married Maria Blatner and that her father, John, died in Mannheim Township. John's estate fee name the children of Henry and Maria including sons John, Jacob, Henry, Philip, Samuel and Joseph. Most of these names too appear in Schuylkill County in 1820-1840 — so I have made an educated guess this is one of Schuylkill County Mertz families.

1800 / Henry Mertz/ Mannheim, Berks / 26-45 /

1810 / Henry Mertz / Mannheim, Berks / 45+ /

1820 / Henry Mertz / Mannheim, Schuylkill / 45+ /

**N3b David.** There was a David Mertz in Longswamp Township in 1810 and one in Mannheim Township in 1840. I don't know who either was for sure or, if it was the same man, where he was in 1820 or 1830. It is just a guess the he was Conrad's son, based on his age and the geographic pattern.

1810 / David Mertz/ Longswamp, Berks / 16-25 /

1840 / David Mertz / Mannheim, Schuylkill / 40-49

**N4 Nicholas.** Nicholas had a cousin named Nicholas. I have spent some time trying to be sure I knew which of them did what. I believe that the Nicholas who moved to Northumberland County and died there in 1801 and who was born in 1748 was the other one. I do not know what happened to this Nicholas -- he never appears in the record again. His sister who died in 1776 called Nicholas her only brother -- a dubious claim since she obviously had Conrad, Henry and Jacob and she even mentioned Jacob -- but the explanation I've always thought pertained is that Nicholas Sr. maybe had a second wife

and that is what Maria was referring to. Maybe she and Nicholas were by the second wife, her other half-brothers by the first wife. I don't know this to be true, I only posit it to explain that statement by Maria. If so, it probably means Nicholas Jr, was born probably in the 1750's and was much younger than his two older brothers.

There was a Nicholas Marty (might be Martz, might really be Marty) in Bucks County age 45+ in 1800, I have no reason to actually think this was him.

Descendants of Peter "P".

**P1 Peter.** Peter was born in Longswamp Twp, Berks Co, PA, abt 1744. (He was listed as a single man on a 1765 tax list). Peter died bef 27 Apr 1813 in North'd Co, PA. (date will proved).

This is Peter Jr. named as Executor of his father's will. Peter moved to Northumberland County in 1789 and was thereafter Peter Sr. Peter married Susanna Braun. Their sons were **P1a Jonathan** born about 1776, **P1b Daniel** 1779, possibly **P1c Abraham** 1786 and **P1d Peter** about 1785. All those sons lived their adult lives in Northumberland County.

Peter and/or his sons were listed variously in Census in Northumberland County from 1790 and thereafter. The township names varied but all were the townships near Sunbury that, in all cases, remained in Northumberland County even after 1813 when it finally shrunk to its current size.

1790 / Peter Mertz / Northumberland /

1800 / Peter Marts / Chillisquaque, Northumberland / 45+

1800 / Jonathan Marts / Chillisquaque, Northumberland / 16-26

1810 / Peter Marts / Chillisquaque, Northumberland / 45+

1810 / Dant Marts / Chillisquaque, Northumberland / 26-45 / Danl

1810 / Jonathan Martz / Augusta, Northumberland / 26-45

1820 / Daniel Mertz / Point, Northumberland / 26-45

1820 / Jonathan Martz / Augusta, Northumberland / 26-45

1820 / Peter Mertz / Chillisquaque, Northumberland / 26-45 / Jr.

1830 / Peter Mertz / Sunbury, Northumberland / 40-50 / Jr.

1830 / Jonathan Mrtz / Point, Northumberland / 50-60

**P1c Abraham.** Then there's Abraham. Abraham Martz of Milton, PA existed. He was listed several times in Census in Milton and named as a father in a Milton church baptism record with wife Susan. So who was Abraham?

I know of several Abraham Mertz or Martz of the same approximate age to be possible candidates to be Abraham of Milton. But for all of them, I either know what exactly did happen to them or I know enough about them and enough about Abraham of Milton to be reasonably certain they were not the same man.

Now consider this. Daniel Martz of Northumberland Borough disappeared from Census after 1820 and Northumberland Borough tax lists after 1825 when there was a notation where his name was scratched off and it said "gone to Milton".

Now had a lot of Martzes lived in Milton, this notation would not be that significant. But no one of that name had ever lived there before Abraham and no one else except he and then his widow and descendants were there until many decades later.

So my theory, and that's all it is, is that Abraham of Milton, who I otherwise don't know but who appeared in Milton about when the record suggests Daniel, son of Peter, was supposed to have moved there — was the extra tick mark son of Peter who I otherwise can't identify. I acknowledge there is no

evidence linking Abraham to Peter, but again it is a theory formed in the context of trying to identify and track all early persons named Mertz or Martz.

1820 / Abraham Mertz / Milton, Northumberland / 26-45

1830 / Abm Martz / Milton, Northumberland / 40-49

1840 / Susan Martz / Milton, Northumberland / 40-49 / widow of Abraham

**P2 David.** David was born in Longswamp Twp, Berks Co, PA, abt 1745. (his will written in 1820, said he was near 75). David died bef 9 Aug 1822. (date will proved).

abt 1777 David married Barbara Miller. (she was single in 1776, they baptized a child in 1781). Barbara was born abt 1745. Barbara died aft 1830.

They had the following sons: **P2a John** (1780-1815), **P2b David** (1784-1851), **P2c Abraham** (1785-1848), **P2d Henry** (1786-1848 ??), **P2e Peter** (1790-1852) and **P2f George** (1793-1858). Most of these sons, the younger ones for sure, moved to Ohio in the 1830's.

David and/or his sons (and in 1830 his widow Barbara) were listed variously in Census in Northumberland County from 1790 and thereafter. The township names varied but all were townships near Sunbury that, in all cases, remained in Northumberland County even after 1813 when it reached its current (reduced) size.

1790 / David Mertz / Northumberland /

1800 / David Martz / Augusta, Northumberland / 45+

1810 / David Martz / Augusta, Northumberland / 45+

1810 / David Martz / Augusta, Northumberland / 26-45 / Jr.

1810 / John Martz / Shamokin, Northumberland / 26-45

1820 / David Mertz Sr / Augusta, Northumberland / 45+

1820 / Widow Mertz / Shamokin, Northumberland / 26-45 / widow of John

1820 / Abraham Marks / Madison, Butler, OH / 26-45

1820 / Henry Mertz / Augusta, Northumberland / 26-45 / then gone from Census

1830 / Barbara Martz / Augusta, Northumberland / 80-90 / widow of David Sr.

1830 / Abraham Marks / Madison, Butler, OH / 40-49

1830 / Peter Martz / Augusta, Northumberland / 20-30 / adjacent to Barbara

1830 / Elizabeth Martz / Shamokin, Northumberland / 50-60 / widow of John

1840 / Abraham Marty / Madison, Butler (Ohio) / 50-60 / his sons there too

1840 / Peter Marts / Montgomery (Ohio) / 50-60 /

1850 / George Mortz / Montgomery (Ohio) / 56 / lived with Peter

**P3 Johannes.** Johannes was born in Longswamp Twp, Berks Co, PA, abt 1746. (He was listed as a single man on a 1767 tax list). Johannes died abt Sep 1786 in Longswamp Twp, Berks Co, PA. (probate records).

Johannes (John) has the distinction, like Peter Mertz Jr and Nicholas, of being a documented son of **P Peter**. Berks County records show a Johannes Mertz of Longswamp who died in about 1786 and Peter's will referred to his deceased son John. He died before the rest of his family removed to Northumberland County.

aft 1767 Johannes married Margaret. I will list out Johannes' sons here because they stayed on in Berks County after the rest of the family left and then only later moved on. I know both their names from Orphan's Court records.

**P3a Johannes.** Johannes, son of Johannes and Margaret, was born 28 Jan 1776, baptized at Longswamp and named as John's son in Margaret's Orphan's Court petition after Johannes died in 1786.

He was listed in the 1800 Census in Longswamp and then disappeared from that place. I am certain he moved to Upper Mahanoy Township, Northumberland County (where he was indexed as John Marle in 1810). I know that John Martz of Howerter's Church was none other than **P3a Johannes** because of the carry-through of the name of his wife and the fact that his sister and her husband made the same move.

1800 / John Mertz / Longswamp, Berks / 16-26

1810 / John Marle / Upper Mahanoy, Northumberland / 26-45

1820 / John Martz Sr / Upper Mahanoy, Northumberland / 45+

1840 / John Marby / Coal, Northumberland / 60-70

**P3a1 Heinrich.** A man named Henry Mertz eventually showed up at Howerter's Church -- where John Sr. and John Jr. were also named, so I have surmised that he too was a son of **P3a Johannes**.

1820 / Henry Mertz / Upper Mahantango, Schuylkill / 26-45 / twp abuts Upper Mahanoy

1820 / Henry Matz / Upper Mahantango, Schuylkill / 40-49 / twp abuts Upper Mahanoy

**P3a2 Benjamin.** A man named Benjamin Mertz eventually shows up near **P3a Johannes** in the 1830 Census. I have surmised that they were father and son. In 1850, he was reported as age 51 so I have made him the oldest son.

1830 / Benjm Martz / Upper Mahanoy, Northumberland / 30-40

1840 / Benjamin Marty / Coal, Northumberland / 40-50

1850 / Benjamin Martz / Coal, Northumberland / age 51

**P3a3 John.** Living near John Sr. in Upper Mahanoy Twp in 1820 was John Martz Jr. age 16-26, obviously the son that Johannes and wife Catherine baptized at Longswamp who was born 6 Jun 1801. He also worshipped at Howerter's Church where he and wife Polly baptized sons Daniel in 1820 and Elias in 1821. By 1840, this family had moved to Jefferson County, PA.

[RINGGOLD TWP,  
JEFFERSON CO, PA](#)

1820 / John Martz Jr / Upper Mahanoy, Northumberland / 16-26

1830 / John Martz / Little Mahanoy, Northumberland / 30-39

1840 / John Martz / Porter, Jefferson / 40-49

1850 / John Martz / Ringgold, Jefferson / age 50 / lives with wife Mary 53, Daniel 30 and Eli 28

**P3b Philip.** Philip was born 20 May 1784 and baptized by his parents at Longswamp. A Philip Mertz was buried at St. Michael's in Tilden Twp, Berks County died 30 Nov 1862 and the birth date on his tombstone matches this Philip.

The problem is , except for 1850, he is hard to find in Census.

1850 / Philip Hertz / Cumru, Berks / age 59

**P4 Philip.** Philip was born in Longswamp Twp, Berks Co, PA, abt 1746. (He was listed as a single man on a 1767 tax list). Philip died in abt Jan 1804 in Freeburg, PA. (will written 19 Dec 1803, proved 14 Jan 1804).

This was my ancestor -- Philip Mertz of Longswamp Township -- often confused with John Philip of Rockland Township. But they were two separate people. It took me awhile to even begin to suspect that, though, and then even more time to fully convince myself that it was an absolute fact. The facts seem irrefutable now, but were not obvious until I had collected them all and then laid things out:

1. Philip Mertz, grandson of John David, married Eve or Anna Eva, baptized several children at Longswamp Church throughout the 1770's and then in about 1785 (when he was first listed as a Northumberland County taxpayer) moved from Berks County to Freeburg, Northumberland County (Freeburg is now in Snyder County), baptized several more children there in the late 1780's and died in

late 1803 or early 1804 in that place. He was listed in the 1800 Census in Northumberland County. He was named continuously with wife Anna Eva from 1776-1784 at Longswamp Reformed Church, and from 1785-1789 at Zion Morr's Church in Freeburg.

2. John Philip Mertz, son of John Henry, born in 1738, married Catherine Quirin in 1765, baptized children with her at Mertz Church in the period preceding and then overlapping the timeframe when Philip and Eva were doing the same. He was listed in the 1790, 1800 and 1810 Census in Berks County and continued to be a baptismal sponsor at Mertz Church as late as 1812 when he and Catharine sponsored the baptism of their grandson Benjamin, son of Philip (Jr.) and wife Sarah. He was named continuously with Catharine from 1764-1812 at Mertz Church.

Whether my Philip was also named John Philip, I don't know for sure. I have never seen him referred to as such in any actual document but it was common practice among Germans for a man of a given name to have the first name John.

Philip and Anna Eva had three sons: **P4a Peter** (1774-1845), **P4b Henry** (1781-1857) and, I believe, **P4c Abraham** (1783-1859). Peter and Henry stayed in Freeburg and died there. They are easy to track in Census. But less so, Abraham. I'm not certain I have my Abrahams sorted out but I've worked hard on the problem. Remember there was an **Abraham P1c** in Milton by 1820 who I admit to maybe not having properly placed. So too this Abraham,. There was another mystery Abraham buried in Numidia, Columbia County with dates 27 Jul 1783-14 Mar 1859. Philip's son Abraham was baptized at Longswamp 25 May 1783, the record said he had been born 26 Feb 1783. I have guessed that Abraham of Numidia was Philip's son despite the small birth date discrepancy.

Philip was present in Freeburg, then Northumberland County by 1790 and should have been listed there in the 1790 Census but was skipped. He was listed in the 1800 Census in Penns Township, Northumberland County -- meaning the part of the county west of the Susquehanna River and then his wife Eve and eventually his sons showed up in the same place which by 1820 was Union County and eventually in 1855 Snyder County.

1790 / Philip should be in Northumberland County, he was skipped by Census

1800 / Philip Martz / Penns, Northumberland / 45+

1800 / Peter Martz / Penns, Northumberland / 26-45

1810 / Eve Martz / Penns, Northumberland / 45+ / widow of Philip

1810 / Peter Martz / Penns, Northumberland / 26-45

1810 / Henry Martz / Penns, Northumberland / 26-45

1810 / Abraham Martz / Freeburg, Northumberland / 26-45

1820 / Peter Mertz / Washington, Union / 45+

1820 / Abraham Martie / Catawissa, Columbia / 26-45

1820 / Henry Mertz / Washington, Union / 26-45

1830 / Peter Mertz / Washington, Union / 50-60

1830 / Henry Mertz / Washington, Union / 40-50

**P5 Nicholas.** Nicholas was born in Longswamp Twp, Berks Co, PA, on 8 Aug 1748. (tombstone). Nicholas died in Middleburg, North'd Co, PA, on 22 Feb 1801; he was 52. (tombstone).

He was listed as an Executor of the will of Peter Mertz who died in 1787. Initially, I thought that Peter may simply have chosen his nephew Nicholas. I wasn't sure we could conclude, just because he named Nicholas an Executor, that Nicholas therefore was his son. But Mary Lou Kueker has convinced me that Peter indeed had a son Nicholas as she found the proof. There were several deeds recorded not long after Peter's death, wherein Peter Jr. and Nicholas sold their "deceased father's" land. The deeds could not be more clear.



In 1789, Nicholas moved to what would become Franklin Township, Snyder County. He lived in the Middleburg area, initially called Swinefords. Of all the Mertzses who came to then Northumberland County by 1790, it was only Nicholas and his brother Philip who ended up west of the Susquehanna River, the others stayed east. And it is interesting that many descendants today of Philip and Nicholas spell their name Mertz while descendants of their brothers who came to Northumberland County by 1790 all spell their name Martz.

Several sources say that Nicholas of Middleburg was the brother of Philip. But it wasn't until I read the deeds that clearly say that Nicholas was selling his father, Peter's, land -- that I became convinced.

No one has ever found a grave for Philip, but Nicholas' grave has been found and transcribed. It is on what must have been his farm. One early transcription says he was born 8 Aug 1748 and died 22 Feb 1801 and was 52y 6m 14d. A 1748 birth date seems inconsistent with what we know about Nicholas II and adds more evidence that there must have been two men named Nicholas of the third generation and this one, son of Peter, came to Middleburg.

After Nicholas' death in 1801, Isaac Mertz filed a petition asking the court to divide his father's 127 acre farm among the heirs. [Ultimately the farm was bought by Isaac's brother Jacob.] Isaac's petition named his siblings -- first the males and then the females, I believe chronologically in each group. I know some of the birth dates for some of the siblings and they are consistent with that implied order and also consistent with certain Orphan's Court petitions stating that five of the children were minors in 1805.

Nicholas and wife Catharina had the following sons: **P5a Isaac** (1777-1832), **P5b Abraham** (1780-1838), **P5c Jacob** (1781-1859), **P5d Samuel** (1787-) and **P5e Peter** (1789-1872). I know their birth years from their tombstones or in the case of Samuel and Peter because they were said to be age 14 in one of the Orphan's Court documents associated with Nicholas. Abraham and Peter moved to Ohio and Peter later to Indiana, the others stayed closer to home.

Nicholas was listed in the 1790 and 1800 Census in Penns Township, Northumberland County -- meaning the part of the county west of the Susquehanna River and then his wife Catherine and eventually his sons show up in the same place which by 1820 was Middleburg, Union County and eventually in 1855 Snyder County, which is actually where Nicholas had settled.

1790 / Nicholas Mertz / Northumberland /

1800 / Nicholas Martz / Penns, Northumberland / 45+

1810 / Catharin Martz / Swinefords, Northumberland / 45+ / widow of Nicholas

1810 / Jacob Martz / Freeburg, Northumberland / 26-45

1810 / Samuel Martz / Centre, Northumberland / 16-26

1820 / Catharine Mertz / Middleburg, Centre, Union / 45+ / widow of Nicholas

1820 / Samuel Mertz / Middleburg, Centre, Union / 26-45

1830 / Samuel Martz / Middleburg, Union / 40-50

1830 / Jacob Mertz / Buffalo, Union / 40-50

**P5a Isaac.** Isaac was born in Longswamp Twp, Berks Co, PA, in 1777. Isaac is important to be listed on his own here because I now believe he was the father of John Mertz who died in Auglaize, OH in 1877. Isaac left no will nor property to be divided by his heirs so the names of all his children are unknown. But it was Isaac alone who moved to New Berlin, so over the years I have come to believe that any younger Mertzses I found with a New Berlin connection must have been sons of Isaac — including **P5a2 Samuel** born 1802, Henry born abt 1805 (never married nor lived on his own, not designated), **P5a3 Israel** born 1812 (his twin Isaac died a few weeks after his birth) and **P5a4 George** born 1816.

However, almost from my earliest attempts to try to sort out all the Mertzes of Pennsylvania, I've been aware of a John Mertz who died in Auglaize County, OH and who was born, according to his obituary, in June 1801. Since I knew of a **John P3a3** born in June 1801 and whose whereabouts after 1820 I was unable to trace, I came (erroneously) to believe that Auglaize John was that other John.

But I discovered my error when new information came along clearly tracing **John P3a3** and he never went to Auglaize County. Further research into Auglaize John showed he had a strong Union County, even Middleburg, connection — that he named his first son Isaac — and that his wife was Sarah Harmony, the Harmony name in 1820 being found locally only in New Berlin.

Moreover, analysis of those early Census records for Isaac allow in all cases that he had additional sons not yet accounted for including the possibility of one who was born in 1801.

1800 / Isaac Martz / Penns, Northumberland / 16-26

1810 / Isaac Mertz / Swinefords, Northumberland / 26-45

1820 / Isaac Martz / New Berlin, Union / 26-45

1830 / Isaac Martz Esq / New Berlin, Union / 50-60

1830 / Saml Martz / New Berlin, Union / 20-29

1840 / Israel Mertz / Beaver, Union / 20-29

1840 / George Mertz / Beaver / 30-39

1850 / Geo Mertz / Cincinnati, OH / 36

1860 George Mertz / Mound City, Pulaski, IL / 45

**P5a1 John.** I believe this is John who died in Auglaize County, OH. He was consistently named Mertz in Auglaize records and had connections to Union County — strong clues that he was of either the Nicholas or Philip Mertz lines — the Union County lines — and not any of the other Northumberland County families all of whom were already using the Martz spelling before Auglaize John would have moved to Ohio. AUGLAIZE COUNTY, OH

1830 / John Mertz / Middleburg, Union / 20-30

1850 / John Merty / Union, Auglaize (Ohio) / 49

**P6 Jacob.** Jacob was born in Longswamp Twp, Berks Co, PA, abt 1755. Jacob died bef 22 Feb 1803. (date will proved). In the 1790 Census and tax records of Northumberland County, there was mention of two men named Jacob Mertz (and yet a third still lived in Rockland Twp, Berks Co -- he being the son of John Henry Mertz). One of them in North'd was referred to as Jacob Sr., the other curiously was NOT referred to as Jr. (My theory is even though he was the younger of the two Jacobs, he, in fact, had a son named Jacob, so naming him Jacob Jr. didn't make sense.).

One of the two Jacobs, Jacob Sr. I think but it really doesn't matter, was the son of Nicholas and was only "passing through" Northumberland County and would move to New York State before 1800. In addition to his age, NOT Jacob Jr. can be known distinctly from Jacob Sr. by the name of his wife.

This line of the family almost exclusively spelled the name Martz -- as did all of Peter's sons who settled in east of the Susquehanna River in Northumberland County.

Jacob married Margaretha and they baptized two sons at Longswamp Reformed: **P6a David** (1774-1843) and John Henry (1775-) who I think must have died young. I also believe he had a son **P6c Jacob** (1779-1864).

Jacob and/or his widow Margaret and their sons were listed variously in Census in Northumberland County from 1790 and thereafter. The township names varied but all were the townships near Sunbury that, in all cases, remained in Northumberland County even after 1813 when it reached its current size.

1790 / Jacob Martz / Northumberland /

1800 / Jacob Martz / Sunbury, Northumberland / 26-45 /

1810 / Margaret Martz / Sunbury, Northumberland / 45+ / widow of Jacob

**P6a David.** David married Magdalena Schissler and they had a large family, some of whom stayed in North'd County and several (possibly) who moved to Peoria, IL.

1800 / David Martz / Sunbury, Northumberland / 16-26

1810 / David Mertz Jr. / Augusta, Northumberland / 26-45

1820 / David Mertz Jr / Augusta, Northumberland / 45+

1830 / David Martz / Augusta, Northumberland / 50-60

**P6b Jacob.** A man whose DNA places him (and his ancestors) in the Alsace/Longswamp group has traced his ancestry to Jacob Martz who just appears as an adult in 1813 in Catawissa, Columbia County. He died there in 1864 and from his tombstone we know he was born 15 Nov 1779. His wife was Elisabeth nee Shusler, her maiden name given in a church record of Columbia County.

So who was Jacob's father?

I have a hunch I know the answer to that question but try as we might, we have not yet found any way to prove it. But to start there are, let's say, three general possibilities.

1. He was the son of one of the Mertzes who came from Longswamp to Northumberland County (just down the river a short distance from Catawissa) before 1790.
2. He was the son of one of the few Mertzes who stayed in Longswamp after their brothers and cousin moved to Northumberland.
3. He came direct from Alsace to Catawissa or maybe his father was the immigrant but did not settle in or near Berks County and thus has not been identified by me in the discourse above.

Here is my hunch. **P6 Jacob** may well have had additional sons whose baptisms went unrecorded. I certainly can name other Mertzes of Longswamp -- who must have been baptized -- but who were not named in those records. I also note these facts:

- 1779 Jacob would fit into the list of known children of **P6 Jacob's** between Catharina born 9 Feb 1778 and an unnamed child born 27 Jun 1781.
- **P6a David**, who was, I believe, **P6c Jacob's** brother, married Magdalena Schissler (clearly the same name as Shusler). Often in those days, brothers married sisters.
- Charity, daughter, I believe, of **P6a David**, married Peter Helwig of Catawissa. It is difficult to see how these two young people would have met, they grew up quite geographically separated. But when I add to the story that **P6c Jacob's** son **P6c1 Joseph** married Peter's sister, the idea that maybe Charity and Peter were cousins who visited each other may explain everything..

1810 / Jacob Martz / Augusta, Northumberland / 26-45

1820 / Jacob Martz / Catawissa, Columbia / 45+

1820 / Jacob (Joseph, I think) Martz / Catawissa, Columbia / 26-45

1830 / Jacob Marts / Catawissa, Columbia / 50-60

1840 / Jacob Martz / Catawissa, Columbia / 40-50

**P7 Abraham.** Abraham was born in Longswamp Twp, Berks Co, PA, abt 1758. He was first listed on the 1779 Berks/Longswamp tax list as a single man -- from which we have deduced his approximate 1758 birth. He was listed as a sponsor at five Mertz baptisms starting in 1776 and in every one of these cases, the parent was, I believe, a grown child of Hans Peter. That suggests that Abraham, too, must have been a child of Hans Peter.



Even more compelling, the Berks/Longswamp tax lists in the early 1780's consistently show Peter Mertz being taxed on 400 acres of land, no other Mertz of that era in that place even comes close to owning that much land. Then in 1784, Peter was not listed as a taxable, but Abraham Mertz was -- with 400 acres.

Early on, I believed that Abraham might have been just a little younger and therefore the son of N1 John Jacob, but I am now convinced, for the reasons stated, that Abraham was the son of Hans Peter.

Abraham stayed on in Longswamp after all the other members of his family left for Northumberland County. He and wife Catharina baptized their children at Longswamp in the years 1786 to 1808. I believe he was the Abraham in Census in Berks County in 1790 and 1800 in Hereford Twp and then in 1810 in Longswamp where he belongs -- and then in 1820 in Salisbury Twp, Lehigh Co. Abraham's wife's father lived in Hereford and owned land in Salisbury.

Abraham married Anna Catharina Griesemer. Her father's estate file named Abraham's surviving (to at least 1830) sons as: **P7a Peter**, **P7b Abraham**, **P7c Jacob** and Charles who I know nothing about.

1790 / Abrm Mertz / Hereford, Berks /

1800 / Abraham Mertz / Hereford, Berks / 26-45

1810 / Abrahm Mertz / Longswamp, Berks / 45+

1820 / Abraham Martz / Salisbury, Lehigh / 45+

**P7a Peter.** I know there was a Peter Mertz buried in Fogelseville, Lehigh County with his tombstone giving the dates 1783-1845. His wife Jane was buried with him. And son Elias.

I also know that a Peter Mertz married a Joanna Fey in 1807 in Longswamp and they baptized son Ely at Longswamp in 1808. I believe Peter, Jane and Elias are Peter, Joanna and Ely. And I believe Peter of Fogelsville was Abraham's known son of that name.

This story gets even more interesting. Another person whose DNA places him squarely in the Alsace/Longswamp group is of the Ponca City, OK Mertz family of the 1900's and traces his ancestry to the Mattoon, IL Mertz family of the late 1800's. It was Charles A Mertz who came to Mattoon with wife Catherine E.

MATTOON, IL and  
PONCA CITY, OK

This couple married in 1854 in Fogelsville. The only other people I know with any sourced documented connection to, specifically, Fogelsville, are the aforementioned Peter, Joanna and Ely. I believe Charles A was Ely's son.

Peter is a little hard to find in Census and be sure it's him and not a different Peter but since Fogelsville is in Upper Macungie Township, I believe this one listing is this Peter.

1840 / Peter Martz / Upper Macungie, Lehigh / 50-59

**P7b Abraham.** I don't think he married and in 1850 lived in the poor house. But I think this was him in 1830.

1830 / Abraham Martz / Salisbury, Lehigh / 30-39

**P7c Jacob.** Jacob was baptized in 1799 at Longswamp by his parents, Abraham and Catharina. There is a Jacob Mertz documented in the **History of Montour County** born around 1799 died 1851 married Elizabeth Schuck. His sons John who married Elizabeth Girton and Henry who married Susan Umsted are also documented. This Jacob is listed in the 1850 Census in Derry Twp, Montour County with sons John 10, Henry 10, Jacob 7 and Philip 2.

I do not have any idea who Montour Jacob was, it is just the coincidence of the 1799 birth that has suggested to me that *maybe* it was this Jacob.

1830 / Jacob Martz / Salisbury, Lehigh / 20-29

1850 Jacob Marttz / Derry, Montour / age 48

## THE ROCKLAND/NORTHAMPTON MERTZES

Descendants of John Henry "H".

**H1 Johann Philip.** John Philip was baptized at Mertz Church, son of John Henry. He was born 14 Oct 1738. We don't know when exactly he died but he was not in the 1820 Census and his last mention in records was when he and Catharina sponsored the baptism of a grandson in 1812. In the 1790, 1800 and 1810 Census, he was listed in Maxatawney Township, though his named was spelled Merz in one case and Merk in another. He was named in his father's will.

**John Philip (H1)** of Rockland, then Maxatawney, and **Philip (P4)** of Longswamp, then Northumberland, have often been confused with each other but they led separate lives and lived entirely different places. One married Catharina as his only wife, the other Eva as his only wife. Their lives overlapped. [See my earlier discussion of **P4 Philip** and my database on my website for full discussion of how I know they are two different people and which was which.]

On 29 May 1764 he married Catherina Elisabetha Quierin.

1790 / Philip Merz / Maxatany, Berks / in addition to himself, 3 males older than 16, one younger

1800 / Philip Martz / Maxatwany, Berks / 45+ / plus 1 male 10-16, 3 males 16-26, 1 male 26-45

1810 / Philip Merk / Maxatwanwy, Berks / 45+ / plus 1 male 26-45 (Philip Heinrich?)

From baptism records at Mertz Church, we know the names of two of Philip's sons -- **H1b John Jacob** and **H1c Philip Heinrich**. Using other methods, several researchers that I have worked with have concluded that Philip also had a son **H1d Daniel** born in 1779 whose baptism went unrecorded.

But consider that in the 1790 and 1800 Census, there is at least one male not already named. After a lot of work, I have concluded the extra male was **H1a William** who moved to Columbia County. So I am listing four sons of Philip and Catharina, two proven by baptisms, one by other means and William deduced by logical analysis.

**H1a William.** A man named William and came to be called Martz moved to Columbia County in about 1811. His tombstone there tells us he was born 1767 and died in 1854. His wife was supposedly Elizabeth Boehm daughter of George and Eva. George and Eva Boehm were listed as communicants at the Briar Creek Church in Columbia County as early as 1805. For several baptisms of William and Elizabeth's children, George and Eva stood as sponsors.

MARTZVILLE,  
COLUMBIA COUNTY, PA

The name of William's father eluded me for a long time. There is nothing I can find to directly connect him to anyone else. One clue could be that once he was named William Jr. when he baptized daughter Susan but the term "Jr." back then sometimes simply meant younger and not son. Another clue is that Philip Mertz and Catharina stood as sponsor for the baptism of two of William's children. Could Philip have been his father?

The question lingered until a descendant of William's submitted his DNA and it confirmed William was of the Mertz Church Mertz family. Meantime, I had learned enough about most of the other Mertz Church Mertzes old enough to possibly have been William's father to rule many of them out. The two candidates I was left with were **H2 Wilhelm** (who many people believe on the basis of the William Jr. citation) and **H1 Philip**.

I can say this. I do not think William born 1767 was the son of **H2 Wilhelm** since Wilhelm moved to Somerset County in about 1785 and I feel certain he would have taken son William with him. Yet 1767 William was well established in Berks County prior to his move to Columbia.

And there is one other point to consider. William moved to Columbia County, we think, in about 1811. **H1d Daniel** moved to Dauphin County in about 1812. The last known mention of **H1 Philip** was as a sponsor at the baptism of his grandson Benjamin in 1812. Could either the death or the impending death of Philip possibly have been the catalyst for several of his sons moving on? (I can document that the sons of my ancestor Peter also moved westward about the time of his death, some a year or two preceding his death and the others just after.)

One of the sources I have relied on over the years is what I call RMR, the initials of a woman who compiled every instance of a Mertz mention in all of the records of eastern Pennsylvania -- she did this many years ago, but even today, I still refer to it. RMR says that Rev. Helffrich says that Wilh Mertz died in 1791. Helffrich served the Berks and Lehigh County areas. I always assumed this was Johan Wilhelm son of John Henry but it turns out RMR was wrong on this one detail. I have gone and found Helffrich's records and he had a list of marriages and a separate list of burials and this entry was clearly in the list of marriages, though no bride was named. Unfortunately, in the very earliest years, Helffrich only stated the groom's name and that is the case here. I believe, though, this was the marriage of William to Elizabeth.

William and Elizabeth baptized three children at Mertz Church. Susan born 11 Jun 1794 sponsored by George Boehm and Eva (the father's name was given as William Jr.), **H1a1 John** born 19 Aug 1796 (sponsored by Philip Mertz and Catharina) and Catherine born 25 Mar 1804 (also sponsored by Philip and Catharina). Another known son was **H1a2 Abraham** born 4 Apr 1800. It is also interesting that when George Boehm and Eva baptized their daughter Lea in 1796, the sponsors were Philip Mertz and Catharina. Sons **H1a3 Daniel** and **H1a4 Henry G** were born in Columbia County.

This is clearly the family that moved to Columbia County where, at Briar Creek Church, in 1813, Johannes, Susanna and Catharina were confirmed. (Johannes was 17, Susanna 19 -- but Catherine only 9 -- but that is what the records show.) John is buried there with a tombstone giving a birth date matching the Mertz Church record.

A final note. Some descendants of his (and you can find this in on-line family trees) sometimes refer to this man as William Henry Martz. I know of no record ever referring to him by that name. He had a grandson named William Henry but I believe the man I'm trying to identify was named simply William.

1800 / William Mortz / Richmond, Berks / 26-45 / looks like Mertz, has 2 sons under 10  
1810 / Wilhelm Martz / Salisbury, Northampton / 26-45 / 1 male under 10, several young females  
1820 / Willim Mertz / Briar Creek, Columbia / 45+  
1820 / Abraham Martie / Catawissa, Columbia / 26-45 / William's son? In Catawissa!? (see U3 Jacob)  
1830 / William Mortis / Briar Creek, Columbia / 50-60 / Abraham Mortis 40-50 nearby  
1840 / William Martz / Briar Creek, Columbia / 70-80 / John 40-50, Abraham 30-40 nearby  
1850 / William Martz / Briar Creek, Columbia / 1787 / John 1797 and Abraham 1800 nearby

**H1b John Jacob.** John Jacob was baptized at Mertz Church by his parents. He was born 17 Dec 1770. After much work, I believe it is now proven that he and most of his family moved to Clinton County, IN where he died.

He had a son **H1b1 William L** born in 1807 who did not move away from Berks County but later several of William's sons also moved to Clinton County. Jacob's other sons: **H1b2 Solomon**, **H1b3 John**, **H1b4 Heinrich** and **H1b5 Jacob** all moved to Clinton County.

1810 / Jacob Mertz / Ruscombmanor, Berks / 26-45  
1830 / Jacob Mertz / Ruscombmanor, Berks / 50-59  
1840 / William Merts / Maxatawny, Berks / 20-30 / a neighbor of Philip  
1840 / Solomon Martz / Clinton, IN / 30-39  
1840 / John Marts / Maxatawny, Berks / 20-29

1850 / John Martz / Madison, Clinton, IN / age 40  
1850 / Henry Martz / Madison, Clinton, IN / age 32  
1850 / Jacob Martz / Madison, Clinton, IN / age 28

**H1c Philip Heinrich.** Philip Heinrich was baptizeded at Mertz Church by his parents. He was born on 8 Oct 1772. He died on 16 Jun 1854 and was buried at Mertz Church.

Philip Heinrich married Sarah Loescher. He was listed in the 1850 Census in Maxatawny. Sarah died in 1844 and is also buried at Mertz Church, along with their two sons. The sons were Benjamin (1811-1826) and **H1c1 John** who farmed his father's land and died the year after his father, at age 40. John was born in 1813 and was the father of William Mertz, born in 1848.

He was named in the 1840 and 1850 Census in Maxatawny, I'm not sure where (or under what name) he was hiding before then. He may have been still living at home in 1810.

1840 / Philip Merts/ Maxatawny, Berks / 60-70  
1850 / Philip Mertz / Maxatawny, Berks / age 76  
1850 / John Mertz / Maxatawny, Berks / age 35

**H1d Daniel.** Daniel was born on 15 Dec 1779. My genealogy friend Louis Fackler wrote a book The Ancestral History of Forrest Louis Fackler in which he documents how he was able to conclude that Philip and Catharina had a son Daniel whose baptism went unrecorded but who existed nonetheless. The key was he was known to have been of Maxatawny and tax lists proved the connection of Daniel and John Philip. Daniel moved to Dauphin County where he died.

1810 / Danl Mary / Maxatawny, Berks / 16-26 / same page as Philip Merk  
1820 / Daniel Martz / Lower Paxton, Dauphin / 26-45 /  
1830 / Daniel Marts / Hanover, Dauphin / 40-50

**H2 Wilhelm.** Wilhelm (William) was born in 1739. Some of the second generation Mertz males are easy to track. For example, John Philip whose marriage to Catharina was recorded in Mertz Church, who was listed in the 1790, 1800 and 1810 Census in nearby Maxatawny (and was a taxpayer in that place), who baptized children of his own at Mertz Church (with Catharina) and who was named (also with Catharina) as a sponsor at the baptism of a grandson at Mertz Church —can there be any question this was John Philip born 1738 son of John Henry? John Jacob, the third son of John Henry also never ventured far from Rockland Township and is easy to track. He is buried at Mertz Church.

But Wilhelm is not so easy. There is no clear record of him as an adult that we can point to and say: that most certainly is Wilhelm born 1739 son of John Henry.

There was a William Mertz who died in Somerset County in 1803 with a large family including several adult males. It is said about Somerset William by descendants that he married Christina Hahn. It is totally clear he came from Berks County. Further, the records of the Jerusalem Lutheran Church in West Salisbury, (now) Lehigh formerly Northampton County show the following three births:

4. Barbara, daughter of William Mertz and Christina, was born 4 Jul 1775 baptized 20 Jul 1775 sponsors Jacob Haan and wife Maria.
5. Johan J, son of William Mertz and Christina, was born 4 Aug 1776 baptized 22 Sep 1776 sponsors Jacob Seip and wife Rosina. [I believe the infant's name was Johan Jacob.]
6. Catherine, daughter of William Mertz and Christina, was born 10 Dec 1777 baptized 15 Feb 1778 sponsors George Mertz and wife Catherine Haanin. (Could the sponsor have been H5 John George?)

Note the strong Hahn connection for William and Christina of Jerusalem. Now it is also said by his descendants that William's four oldest children were: Jacob born 3 Oct 1777, Catharina born 4 May 1779, Susannah born 10 Jun 1788 and Barbara born about 1790, no specific date given. Those dates for William's children seem to be "etched in stone" in the sense that I can find them in three family history books, a Somerset County newsletter article on the family and numerous Internet Family Trees. But I have long since learned not to trust anything regarding alleged facts about early people named Mertz. The original source I believe was the work of Hannibal L Mertz and everyone else has simply taken his work as gospel. But in the book credited to him, written post-humously, no real source for any of these dates is stated. I believe it was William and Christina, who soon moved to Somerset (then Bedford) County (probably in time for the 1790 Census where he was listed as William March), who baptized those three children at Jerusalem.

It is said that William came to Somerset County from Berks County with other Berks County people including Jacob Hahn, so the obvious question is how can I claim it was this same William who was apparently briefly in Northampton County at Jerusalem Church? Two reasons. One, it was not that far from Berks County and two, I believe several Mertz families related to William moved there from Berks about that time. For example, also present in the records of the Jerusalem Church was George H Mertz, a son of John Henry.

#### SOMERSET COUNTY, PA

One of those published family history books written about William and his descendants says, as if it is proven fact, that William who died in Somerset was none other than 1739 Wilhelm son of John Henry. But I never regarded that as proven. Couldn't he have instead been the son of Jost or Johannes, the other Mertz Church immigrant Mertz families?

Now the timing for either would seem a little compressed. Johannes married in 1756, Jost in 1757. Johannes had son John just a little more than a year later, so if we wanted to posit that William was either the son of Johannes or Jost, the timing would really be strange. Such a William would have been born, say, 1758, and then had his first child in 1775 at age 17. (Remember too when I first started pondering this, I thought his earliest child was born a year or two later.)

On the other hand, one thing that especially gave me pause is that I note in those baptisms of William's children not only the Hahn connection but also the Seip connection. Jost Mertz, who I believe was the younger brother of John Henry, married Anna Maria Seip. So I always felt I could not just dismiss outright that William might have been Jost's son. (In the end, I think it is yet another argument demonstrating the closeness between Jost's and John Henry's families.)

Another thing that gave me pause was that a man who has his own children starting in 1775 was born you would think maybe 1750 or so, maybe even a little later. While 1758 seems too late, 1739 seems too early.

And that's why when I came to understand that I could name all of Jost's sons -- and there was no William -- became so important here. I believe being able to totally rule out Jost makes the conclusion inescapable -- William of Somerset was none other than 1739 William, son of John Henry. Yes, he had his children a little later than most men of that era, but not impossibly so. I should say also that the DNA of William's descendants matches closely the DNA of known descendants of John Henry. That alone doesn't rule out Jost or even Johannes but it does probably rule out any thought that William came from some other line we haven't even thought of or yet identified.

The spelling of his name became Martz upon his move to Somerset County and all his descendants to this day have stuck with that spelling.

1790 / William March / Bedford /

1800 / William Mertz / Londonderry, Somerset / 45+

1810 / Widow Mertz / Southampton, Somerset / 45+



1820 / Widow Marth / Southampton, Somerset / 45+

**H2a John Jacob.** I believe he was born in 1776 though Hannibal Mertz in his published family history says 1777. In any event, he moved to Somerset County with his father and lived out his life there.

1800 / Jacob Mertz / Londonderry, Somerset / 26-45

1810 / Jacob Martz / Southampton, Somerset / 26-45

1820 / Jacob Martz / Southampton, Somerset / 45+

1830 / Jacob Martz Esq / Southampton, Somerset / 50-60

**H2b Henry.** Henry was born about 1799 per the 1850 Census. He is referred to as Big Henry by descendants. He moved to Ohio and later Adams County, IN.

1820 / Henry Martz / Southampton, Somerset / 26-45

1840 / Henry Marts / Adams County, Indiana / 50-60

**H3 John Jacob.** Johann Jacob married Catharina Schoelkopf (Patty Mertz) or Schaller (find-a-grave). They baptized five daughters and one son at Mertz Church, the oldest daughter born in 1773. Jacob was born in 1741 and died in 1811.

It is surprising he has been confused with the Jacobs of Longswamp — or anyone ever thinking for a moment he moved to Northumberland County — since this Jacob was always in Rockland Township in Census in 1790, 1800 and 1810. Not to mention his tombstone at Mertz Church.

A lot of people suggest that many of John Henry's family may have been buried at Mertz Church. Some say that because they have mistakenly thought the cenotaph placed there to honor this family long after they all had died implies that they were all buried there (it doesn't). Some point to some vague references to old unreadable stones in the front row of the cemetery and suggest they believe they are this family (maybe, maybe not, who knows?). But this is fact -- there really is a tombstone in that cemetery for **H3 John Jacob**. He is buried there. John Henry and the rest of his family wandered somewhat distant in their lives from their home church, but Jacob never did. He never lived away from Rockland Township, where he was born and buried.

After John Jacob died, two younger male Mertzes appear in Census in Rockland Township. From his estate file, we know they were Jacob's only sons.

1790 / Jacob Mertz / Rockland, Berks / / 2 sons under 10

1800 / Jacob Mertz / Rockland, Berks / 45+ / 1 son 10-16

1810 / Jacob Mertz / Rockland, Berks / 45+ / 1 son 10-16, 1 son 16-26

**H3a John Jacob.** This is the one son that John Jacob Sr. baptized at Mertz Church. He was born 1774. I believe he also stayed in Rockland Township and is the younger Jacob there after his father died.

1820 / Jacob Mertz / Rockland, Berks / 26-45

1830 / Jacob Metz / Rockland, Berks / 50-60

1840 Jacob Marts / Rockland, Berks / 60-70

**H3b Benjamin.** Jacob's estate file noted he also had a son named Benjamin.

1820 / Benjn Merta / Rockland, Berks / 26-45

1830 / Benjamin Mertz / Rockland, Berks / 30 -40

1840 / Ben Marts / Rockland, Berks / 40-50

1850 / Benjamin Mertz / Rockland, Berks / 1789 / (says 1787 in 1860)

**H4 Heinrich.** Heinrich was born in 1749, baptized at Mertz Church and also named in his father's will. I think I have been able to track this Heinrich and keep him separate from all the other ones though I will admit it is somewhat a case of circumstantial evidence. I think he is the Henry Mertz of Allen Township,

Northampton County in the 1790-1820 Census. That Henry was reported as being age 45+ in 1800, so that rules out all but **N3 Henry** -- and he was where he belonged -- Longswamp Township -- in 1790, while the man I think was **H4 Heinrich** was already in Allen Township.

The other clue is a wife named Elisabeth. In 1773, at Mertz Church, Heinrich and Maria Elisabeth Hoffmaenin (Hoffman) sponsored the baptism of Conrad Repp, the child of Heinrich's sister Catharina who married Conrad Repp. Now I have observed in so many instances that two single people named as baptismal sponsors later marry and there were several baptisms by Henry Martz and wife Elisabeth that could well be this couple. Moreover, I also know that Elizabeth Mertz, wife of Heinrich, was said to have died in the records of Schoenersville Church (which is in Allen Township) in 1826 at age 74, thus born 1752 and therefore very much the right age to be the wife of Henry born 1749.

So everything ties together and paints a consistent picture and while I am always on the lookout for more information to either confirm a theory of mine or contradict it, until such information comes along, this is my working theory.

I know of two sons of Heinrich's from their baptisms, though I know nothing more about one of them. **H4a Daniel**, son of Heinrich and Elisabeth Mertz, was born 11 Apr 1784 and baptized at Zion Reformed Church, Allen Township, Northampton County. Henry, son of Heinrich and Elisabeth Mertz, was born 7 Dec 1781 and baptized at Christ Reformed Church in Schoenersville. And, from Census, I'm certain he had a son **H4b John** who may have been the John, son of Henry and *Anna* Elisabeth, born 24 Mar 1785 and whose baptism was recorded 17 Apr 1785 at Stone Church, Kreidersville, More Twp, Northampton County. (There may also have been a Jacob who in 1860 seemed to be living in the same place as John (Lower Saucon) and who I otherwise don't know.

1790 / Henry Marts / Allen, Northampton /

1800 / Henry Mertz / Allen, Northampton / 45+ / his age eliminates other Henry's

1810 / Henry Mertz / Allen, Northampton / 45+

1810 / John Mertz / Allen, Northampton / 16-26

1820 / Henry Mertz / Allen, Northampton / 45+

1820 / John Mertz / Allen, Northampton / 26-45

1830 / John Mertz / Allen, Northampton / 40-50

1830 / Daniel Martz / Northampton, Lehigh / 40-49

1850 / Daniel Mertz / Allentown, Lehigh / 50-59

**H5 John George.** John George was born on 2 Jun 1752. He was listed on the Mertz Church monument that honors John Henry and his family, named simply George, and was also named in his father's will assuming he was the son referred to as J George. However, his baptism record listed his name as "Georg Valentine". Moreover, it totally mis-stated his mother's name, as if John Henry momentarily had a different wife. I believe that two separate baptisms were mistakenly scrambled together and that this man's name was John George and that the name Valentine does not apply. [However, there does seem to have been a Valentine Mertz apparently because he and wife An Margaretha had Rev Schumacher baptize their son Friedr Wm at Lechan on 17 Aug 1760 -- but, in any event, this certainly could not have been Valentine baptized in 1752.]

A George Martz whose wife may have been Anna Maria Quirin (sister of Catharina, wife of **H1 Philip**) died in Frederick County, MD in 1822 said to be age 70. I believe it was **H5 John George**.

1790 / George Mertz / Frederick, MD /

1800 / George Martz / Frederick, Frederick, MD / 26-45

1820 / George Martz Jr. (actually Sr.) / Frederick, MD / 45+

**H6 George Heinrich.** George Heinrich was born on 15 Jul 1755. George Heinrich died on 23 Jul 1827. He was listed on the Mertz Church monument that honors John Henry and his family and also named in his father's will.

Upon his death, it was said he was born 4 Sep (or maybe 1 Sep) 1755 which has always called into question whether this was really the son of John Henry who had a slightly different birth date.

I think it was the same man and one piece of evidence is that when his son Heinrich was baptized, the sponsors were Peter Fink and Maria -- she being George Henry's sister.

George Heinrich and his son Heinrich are the easiest of this name to track in Census. In 1800, George H lived in Whitehall Township, Northampton County. In 1810, his son was listed there too and in 1820 they both were listed in by then what was known as South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County and then by 1830, the father had died and the son was still in the same place now listed near two of his sons: Charles and David.

1800 / George K Mertz / Whitehall, Northampton / 26-45 / looks like an "H" to me

1810 / G Henry Mertz / Whitehall, Northampton / 45+

1820 / Ge Henry Mertz / South Whitehall, Lehigh / 45+

George Heinrich married Eva Barbara Guth. He definitely had a son **H6a Heinrich** and I have guessed he also had **H6b John**.

**H6a Heinrich.** Note how many Henry's we have now identified. But this one was famous. He was a Brigadier General in the War of 1812. He was born 21 Jul 1782, married Hannah Dorney and died 11 Mar 1844 and was buried near his father. He had several sons but all born after 1800 so not relevant to this discussion.

Because he always lived near his father, who often was listed in Census variously as George H or G Henry, and because both of them were prominent Lehigh Countians of South Whitehall, we know them in Census and they do not confuse the discussion of which other Henry was which other Henry.

1810 / Henry Mertz / Whitehall, Northampton / 16-26

1820 / Henry Mertz / South Whitehall, Lehigh- 26-45

1830 / Henry Martz / South Whitehall, Lehigh / 40-50 / David and Charles 20-30 next door

**H6b Johannes.** A man named Johannes Martz (though his tombstone says March) is buried in Mahoning County, Ohio and his tombstone says: died 9 June 1866 age 79y 8m 15d. [This implies a birth date of 25 Sep 1786.] Next to him is his wife whose tombstone says: Mertz, Elizabeth wife of John. Similar arithmetic from her tombstone would indicate a birth date for her of 15 Nov 1788.

There are several ways to prove that Elizabeth was born Elizabeth Bieber and that fact alone suggests a Mertz Church connection (Mertz Church is located on Bieber Creek). At Mertz Church, there is this citation: Elisabeth Bieber of Dewald Bieber (Jacob's son) and Elisabeth, born 19 Nov 1788. After the death of Jacob Bieber, whose Berks County will mentioned his deceased son Dewalt's daughter Elisabeth, Elizabeth wife of Johannes Mertz, signed a release. This was in 1812.

Even more convincing is that DNA of a descendant proves that Johannes belongs somewhere in the Mertz Church Mertz family.

We also know that John lived briefly in Dauphin County prior to moving to Ohio. But none of this answers the question, who was his father? For a long time, I had no good ideas.

Then in early 2016, I learned two things I had not known before.



First, John and his wife Elizabeth (Bieber) baptized a daughter Catharine at Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Western Salisbury, then Northampton County in 1810. This is the church of the family of **George Henry Mertz (H6)**. Second, when Jacob Bieber, Elizabeth's grandfather, wrote his will it was witnessed by George Henry Mertz. His will proved in 1798 in Northampton County.

So, these two new facts both link John to George Henry. And George Henry is one of those persons for which I have never found any document which would name all his sons. His only son I know of for a fact is Heinrich born 1782 but there may well have been others and a son John born in 1786 not only cannot be ruled out, it seems to me a real possibility.

1820 / John Marty / West Hanover, Dauphin / 26-45

1830 / John Mots / Berlin, Trumbull (Ohio) / 40-50 / closest guy I can find

1840 / John Moch / Berlin, Trumbull (Ohio) / 50-60 / might be March

1850 / John March / Berlin, Mahoning (Ohio) / 1787 Descendants of Jost "Y".

Descendants of Jost "Y".

**Y1. Henry.** Henry was probably Jost's oldest son. Not long after Richard died, Henry Mertz, his brother, petitioned the Orphan's Court on behalf of Richard's minor children. Also, Henry and Conrad were appointed administrators of Richard's estate on 24 Jan 1812. I believe those were his two brothers.

1790 / Henry Merts/ Salisbury, Northampton /

1800 / Reinhartd Henry Martz / Whitehall, Northampton / all brackets covered

The Salisbury Cluster. In 1810, there are two other Mertzses in Sallisbery (sic), Northampton County that I can't identify -- John and Wilhelm, both age 26-45. John is probably the older of the two as he has two sons 10-16 and one under 10 and four daughters, three of whom are 10-16 while Wilhelm has just one son under 10. Wilhelm was not U1 William as he had at least two and possibly more sons by 1810. John could be the John mentioned in Henry's petition on behalf of Reichart's minors, though if he was, say, 16 or so in 1811, he would have been born in the 1790's and therefore could not have had those older daughters (were they possibly sisters?) in 1810. So who were these men? And where are they in 1820?

1810 / John Mertz / Sallisbery, Northampton / 26-45

1810 / Wilhelm Mertz / Saliisbery, Northampton / 26-45

**Y2 Conrad.** Conrad was baptized 5 Oct 1760 at Mertz Church by Jost and Maria. I had long believed that Jost was the younger brother of John Henry and now DNA, I believe, confirms it. But initially it was logic and the German family history that led me to believe it to be so. I believe the case can be made that after Jost died young in 1764, that John Henry (and his sons) became closely associated with Jost's sons -- almost like they became one family. One example of this is that when John Henry died in 1788 his will was witnessed by Conrad Mertz. Conrad was a known son of Jost. There was a Longswamp Conrad Mertz, of course, but I believe it was Jost's son who witnessed John Henry's will.

Now in the the earliest Censuses, there were several Conrad's to be sorted out and I know two of them -- this one and **N3 Conrad** (born about 1745, see my comments about him). I believe based on his age, only 26-45 in 1800, then 45+ thereafter that this Conrad lived in MacCungie Township, Northampton County, in 1800, 1810 and then Macungie in Lehigh County in 1820.

Conrad died in Feb 1822 and his eldest son Henry filed an Orphans Court petition stating the names of Conrad's three sons and three daughters. His wife had died. The sons were : Henry, John and George.

And what is maybe interesting is that living near him in Macongic in 1820 were John and Henry both 26-45 with George not far away in Upper Milford Township. Henry is still there through 1850, in then Lower Macungie and that Census says he was born about 1785.

There was yet another, younger Conrad in Upper Milford Township, Northampton County in 1810 -- I don't know he was.

1790 / Cond Mertz / Rockland, Berks /

1800 / Conrad Mertz / Macungie, Northampton / 26-45

1810 / Conrad Marts / Macungie, Northampton / 45+

1820 / Conrad Martz / Macungie, Lehigh / 45+

**Y2a Henry.** I believe this is the Henry living in Macungie and then Lower Macungie who in 1850 said he was born about 1785. I also believe he is the Henry buried at UCC Solomons.

1820 / Henry Martz / Macungie, Lehigh / 26-45

1830 / Henry Mertz / Upper Milford, Lehigh / 40-49

1840 / Henry Martz / Lower Macungie, Lehigh / 50-60

1850 / Henry Mertz / Lower Macungie, Lehigh / 1785 / 1786 indicated in 1860

**Y2b John.** John was named as one of three sons of Conrad in an Orphans Court petition filed after Conrad died. His presence in Macungie is what [LEBANON COUNTY, PA](#) makes me sure I can at least in 1820 identify the correct John.

But DNA has allowed me to complete the story on this John. A descendant of the Martzes who moved to Shelby County, IL from Lebanon County, PA had his DNA tested which proved he had common DNA with all what I call the Mertz Church group in my DNA project. The earliest Martz in Lebanon was named John and from church records there several younger Martzes (Owen, George and John also called John Henry) seem connected to the older John, I believe his sons. Owen, George and John Henry later appear in Shelby [SHELBY COUNTY, IL](#) County, IL.

When I analyzed the Census tick marks for Y1b John, who disappeared from Macungie after 1830, and I believe surfaced in Lebanon County in 1840, each had three sons of the right ages to be Owen, George and John Henry.

1810 / John Mertz / Macungie, Northampton / 16-26

1820 / John Martz / Macungie, Lehigh / 26-45

1830 / John Martz / Upper Milford, Lehigh / 30-40 with 2 sons — 1 age 0-5 (John?) and 1 age 5-10 (Owen?).

1840 / John Marts / Lebanon Twp, Lebanon Co, PA / 40-50 with those two sons now 10-15 (John?) and 15-20 (Owen?) and he has two additional sons age 5-10 (George? + 1).

**Y2c George.** We know Conrad had a son George from the 1822 petition.

1820 / George Mertz / Upper Milford, Lehigh / 26-45

**Y3 Reichart.** Reichart was baptized at Mertz Church 1 Aug 1762 (in one source all dates are given as 1760 not 1762) by his parents. His tombstone is listed by Humphrey in the same cemetery as his mother, Dryland in Lower Nazareth, Northampton -- he died in 1810. I assume the Reichart ux Maria who baptized son Johannes at Moselem in 1804 was this Richard.

Two petitions in about 1811 state the names of Richards heirs. Henry, brother of Richard, filed on behalf of John, Mary and Elizabeth under 14 and Henry and Catherine children of Richard on behalf of themselves over 14.

In 1806, Henry Mertz and Maribilla (?) his wife and Richard Martz sold land in Windsor Township to Christian Luckenbill. This was probably two sons of Jost selling land they possibly inherited from their father.

The 1800 Census lists Reinhartd Henry Martz of Whitehall, Northampton. I don't know this guy transcribed this way by Ancestry. I do know but cannot find Reichart nor his brother Henry and I can certainly convince myself what Ancestry transcribed as "d" is really an ampersand "&". Changing the "n" to a "c" is a little harder to see but I think this might be these two brothers listed together. There are a lot of males in this household spanning every possible age bracket.

1790 / Rygert Merts / Salisbury, Northampton /

1800 / Reinhartd Henry Martz / Whitehall, Northampton / all age brackets covered

Descendants of Johannes "J".

**J1 Johannes.** Johannes was born in 1757. Note the many men named Johannes starting to populate this geographic area. Plus, there are some extraneous John's in Census that I haven't accounted for so more work clearly needs to be done. I believe this John lived in Maxatawney in 1790-1810 and then perhaps moved to Columbia County.

1790 / John Mertz / Maxatawney, Berks

1800 / John Martz / Maxatawney, Berks / 26-45

1810 / John Martz / Maxatawney, Berks / 45+

1820 / John Martz / Derry, Columbia / 45+

**J1a1 John.** There was a John Martz born 19 Nov 1791 in Kutztown (per his death certificate) to parents John and Margaret. Kutztown is in Maxatawney Township. He died 5 Feb 1853 in Hartley Township, Union County, PA.

I have known about this John Mertz since I began tracking the migration of Mertzses from Longswamp Township to Northumberland County. His daughter married into the Bingaman family from which my genealogy friend Richard Aurand Sherer descends and Richard brought John to my attention. I'm still not certain, but I observe that **J1a John** disappeared from Berks County after 1810, then two men named John Martz appeared in Columbia County in 1820 and then both disappeared from there and this one appeared in Union County in 1830.

1820 / John Martz / Derry, Columbia / 26-45

1830 / Ino Monty / Hartley, Union / 30-39

1840 / John Martz / Hartly, Union / 40-49

**J2 Melchior.** Melchior was born 11 Apr 1765 and died bef 6 Oct 1792. (will proved). Melchior married Mary.

1790 / Melchior Mertz / Oley, Berks /

**J2a Abraham.** Abraham was born on 11 Feb 1791, his birth documented at Oley and a tombstone is listed on find-a-grave that an Abraham died 15 Apr 1882 in Fleetwood with birth date matching his known birth date.

1820 / Abraham Martz / Salisbury, Lehigh / 16-26 or 45+ / is this him?

1830 / Abraham Martz / Salisbury, Lehigh / 30-40 / is this him?

**J3 Peter.** Peter was born in 1769. Peter is a mystery man. I cannot find a church record documenting his birth. Charles Fisher who wrote a book titled Early Pennsylvania Births 1675-1785 lists Peter born 9 Mar 1769 as a son of Johannes and Rosina. Now I know this source quite well. He did use church records as one basis for his statements but he also used tombstone data. If he found a tombstone of a person and it gave either his birth date or his age at death from which a birth date could be computed, Fisher used that as a basis to say well we know that person was born and when. Yeah, I agree but that doesn't say how he then established who the guy's parents were. And that seems to be the case here.

There are numerous sources that say this Peter was the third son of Johannes -- but where does it really come from? So I have included him because the idea is so prevalent but that doesn't make it fact. There are several Peter's in Census to keep track of, I believe this is him:

1810 / Peter Martz / Cumru, Berks / 26-45

1820 / Peter Mertz / Pine Grove, Schuylkill / 45+

## OTHER PIONEER MERTZ AND MARTZ FAMILIES

There are three other lines I should mention that I deal with in the Mærtz Hierarchical Project.

T -- Theobald Martz who appeared in and settled in Frederick County, MD in the latter half of the 1700's.

S -- Sebastian Martz who appeared in and settled in Rockingham County, VA by 1790 or so. Sebastian especially had a huge family and many ended up in Ohio and beyond.

X — There was a Philip Mertz who appeared early in Heidelberg Township, Northampton County (the part that later became Lehigh County). He may well have been the immigrant of that name who came in 1749 and about whom I otherwise know nothing more about.

Descendants moved, I believe, to first Carbon County, PA and later to Westmoreland County, PA.

[https://www.mertzgenealogy.com/mertz\\_mhp.html](https://www.mertzgenealogy.com/mertz_mhp.html)

## THE UNIDENTIFIED

**Jacob Martz of Dauphin County.** Many Jacobs are covered above. Yet, there is another man named Jacob Martz -- this one born 25 Dec 1777 -- who appears in Dauphin County by about 1820 and whose wife was Sarah Jury. He had quite a large family who in later years found their way into lower Northumberland County which borders Dauphin to the north.

This Jacob is discussed in the J L Floyd published book on Northumberland County history and genealogy -- of the genre I said earlier never to be trusted on such things -- and in any event that discussion is very confused. At times, it sounds like 1777 Jacob was the same as the older Jacob and at other times his son. Clearly Floyd is not to be cited on this subject, but there is no question that Floyd would believe that Dauphin Jacob was of the Longswamp line (though Floyd didn't know of the Longswamp line).

But no other Longswamp Mertzes ever popped up in Dauphin County while two Mertzes, known to be of one or another of the Mertz Church lines, did. I believe Dauphin Jacob was not of the Longswamp line. But he must fit into one of the other lines somewhere so he remains unidentified.

1810 / Jacob Martz / Dauphin (remaining part) / 26-45

1820 / Jacob Mertz / Upper Paxton, Dauphin / 45+

1830 / Jacob Mertz / Upper Paxton, Dauphin / 40-50

1840 / Jacob Mertz / Upper Paxton, Dauphin / 60-70

[Last updated 2 Mar 2018]