

## **THE MERTZES OF LONGSWAMP REFORMED**

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

This is a list of all baptisms at Longswamp Reformed Church up to about 1810 where any person named Mertz was the infant, parent or sponsor. (This includes married women born Mertz (those whose married names I know or could conjecture). And a few additional baptisms are included which provide useful context for the interpretative comments.

Of course it makes sense to have this list just as a record of all relevant birth and/or baptism dates. But more importantly, it is useful to see when certain persons appear on the scene or disappear from it as clues to their age or removal to Northumberland County. And it is also useful as a basis to analyze the relationships among people. It was often a parent's brother and/or sister who stood as sponsor. And often, two single people listed as sponsors later marry.

The Longswamp records begin with a number of pages devoted (or largely devoted) to the children of one particular set of parents, mostly representing births before 1764 when the true chronological record-keeping was initiated. It is a little unclear, though, for these earliest births, when the actual baptisms took place. Sometime earlier than 1764, but when? This is too bad, as whatever information might be gleaned about someone's age is less clear in these cases.

This work is a collaborative effort between Oakley Mertz who made and published the first pass at this in about 2004 and Mary Lou Kueker who offered many additional comments and insights in about 2007. Her commentary appears in *red italics*. Mary Lou is now deceased but I was lucky to have been able to work with her on our shared interest in the Mertz family of Longswamp. She added a few citations not included in the first pass, informative context as gleaned from the original (mostly German) manuscript, additional interpretive assessments based on other source documents, and a very careful interpretation of the actual German when that mattered. We started with the Hinke and Butz translations of the church books, but Mary Lou checked those very carefully and thoroughly and found many errors and key omissions in those translations.

John David Mertz represents Generation I of this family in America and his children Nicholas, Peter and Christina Generation II. The births of Generation III (in the 1730's-1750's) went largely unrecorded, which is unfortunate. But Generation IV begins (in the records) with the 1760 birth of Conrad, son of John Jacob, son of Nicholas. And it is the careful study of those Generation IV births which leads to the identification of, I believe, all of Generation III -- the adult Mertzses in the 1760's and 1770's. And, since we are so fortunate that all of Nicholas' children were named in Orphans Court filings after his death, the remainder must be children of Peter.

Certain of our interpretative comments are based on the context of records within the book which is meaningful. The book has a decorative title page, followed by two pages of a history of the church, including a list of the early elders and other officials, written in 1764. Another two page history follows, bringing the account up to 1848. The next 6 pages are devoted to recording baptisms that took place before the record book was begun, each page for a family. These are of great importance. Where these prior baptisms do not fill an entire page, later ones have been added. Following these pages, the chronological entries begin, with the entry format changing over time. The importance of this structure will be made apparent in the interpretive comments.

The format of this presentation is a two line entry for each baptism. The left column includes birth date on the top line and baptism date on the second line, sometimes only one is known. The infant's full name, father's given name and mother's full name (if cited) is included. And the names of relevant sponsors are included with any identifying information as to their relationship to each other or the parents. Following each baptismal citation is our interpretive comments -- the main

objective being to precisely identify each Mertz named and add any other conclusions that might help better know their lifespan.

One other point. The entries in the baptismal record were made by different people over time. They vary somewhat in how or whether the relationship or marital status was stated or implied in the way the sponsors were listed. The ideal situation would be either: "Philip Mertz and wife Eva" or "David Mertz and Barbara Muller, both single". But what does it mean when the sponsors are "Peter Mertz, Catharina Mertz"? Is that the same as saying Peter Mertz and wife Catharina? Or, is it father and daughter or mother and son or brother and sister or even father and daughter-in-law? Sometimes we want to believe we can infer the relationship and we go to great pains in this analysis to consider the possibilities.

Birth Date	Baptism Date	Infant's Name	Father	Mother	Sponsors
	2-May-1744				Christina Mertz
	Unknown	Philip Heinrich Diehl	Hanes	Wife	Philip Heinrich Diehl

The sponsor is Christina, daughter of John David. I believe she married in about 1750, so this baptism may have occurred in the 1740's. My grandfather, John Oakley Mertz, married Radie Diehl of Northumberland County, but I don't think Radie had any connection to this Diehl family of Longswamp. But the Diehls and Mertzes of Longswamp were close as one other Diehl baptism in 1779 is noted in this document because of having a Mertz as sponsor.

*The fifth page of prior baptisms starts "Hannes Diehl his children were inscribed the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 1764". Five entries follow from 1744 to 1754. The children are called "my Marialis", "my Anna Maria" etc, so it appears these entries were written by the father. The last three entries are for children of Christian Diehl, in 1760, 1762 and 1764. The sixth page is also one family, the children of Theobald Carl from 1744 to March 1764, all in the same hand.*

24-May-1751				Godfrid Karcher
11 Nov	Maria Eva Likwill	Heinrich	Sara	Anna Maria Schuferin

*The Litweiler family has the first page of prior baptisms in the Longswamp book listing 6 children from 1747 to 1759. The 1764 baptism of David Hener occupies the last space on the page. The first entry, for 1747, gives the maiden name of Sara as Schnieder, and the following listings omit this information. Three of the baptisms have a Mertz connection as sponsor, and 3 have a representative of the Karcher family, about which more later. Obviously there was a close connection between these families and perhaps Sara may have been a sibling of Veronica Schneider, wife of David Mertz. In addition to these records, the baptism of one more Litweiler infant was recorded in the Register of Christ Lutheran in Rockland, the "Mertz Church". This child had the same name as the next entry from Longswamp, and may have died young.*

10-Dec-1752				Jacob Mertz, Adam Gory
Unknown	Johannes Litweiler	Heinrich	Sarah	Christina Klein

One sponsor is John Jacob, son of Nicholas, but since I don't know when the baptism occurred, I can't use this as a clue to his age. Christina Klein is nee Mertz who married first Theobald Klein and second Peter Klein.

12 Sep 1758				Maria Mertz
Unknown	Mary Eva Litweiler	Heinrich	Sarah	Adam Zehman, Eva Kleber

So who is Maria Mertz? When I did this analysis initially in 2004, I did not know. Nicholas had a daughter Maria born perhaps about 1750 so, depending on the date of this baptism, perhaps too young. He also had a daughter Maria Eve, older than Maria, and I wondered if it was possibly her.

But in about 2011, I learned about a man named Adam Zehner whose wife was Mary, born Mertz. And then I realized that she just had to be the Maria Mertz named in this record and the woman identified as the wife of Adam Hener and mother of David Hener born in 1764 (see my comments

on that birth below). Since Nicholas' daughter Maria died young, unmarried, and his daughter Maria Eva married Frederic Braun, I concluded that Maria therefore must be a daughter of Peter.

Then I learned that William Zehner -- a genealogist whose work I was already familiar with -- had come to the same conclusion. William Zehner had assisted me early on in my effort to document that my ancestor Philip Mertz who died in Northumberland County in late 1803 or early 1804 was absolutely not the John Philip Mertz born 1738, son of John Henry Mertz, founder of Mertz Church. Part of William's analysis on my behalf was the observation that a man's brother often stood as a sponsor at the baptism of his child. That observation, in fact, became a key underlying assumption in the entire analysis undertaken here.

This is Maria's only mention in these records. When her son was baptized, she was listed only as "wife". She and Adam moved to (what would become) Schuylkill County soon after her marriage.

There is one other thing very interesting about this baptism. At the time of this baptism, Maria had not yet married Adam. We will see many other instances in these church records and in other churches too where two people are listed as single at a baptism and then end up married in a year or two. I call that my baptisms as singles bar of the time theory.

13 Oct 1759				Johannes Mertz, Maria Butz
Unknown	Mary Magdalena Litweiler	Heinrich	Sarah	Magdalena Mertz

The sponsor is no doubt Peter's son Johannes. And Magdalena is probably Nicholas' daughter Maria Magdalena or possibly John Jacob's wife Magdalena.

If it is correct that Sarah nee Schneider was Veronica's sister, then these Litweiler baptisms are not so much notable for which Mertz stood as sponsor as they are for which did not. Why wasn't Veronica ever a sponsor? Why not David? The answer may be that both David and Veronica had died before 1747, the earliest of the Litweiler baptisms.

29 Jan 1760				Conrad Mertz
Unknown	Conrad Mertz	Jacob	Magdalena	Elisabeth Hammerig

John Jacob named a son Conrad and had his brother Conrad as sponsor. The other sponsor, I believe, is a clue to Magdalena's maiden name, Elisabeth might well be Magdalena's sister. This birth is the earliest Generation IV Mertz birth recorded. John Jacob's sister Catherine married Lorentz Kline and their son Bernard was born apparently in 1756 -- so he would possibly have been the first Generation IV birth, but it went unrecorded.

*Three Mertz births -- Conrad, Elisabeth, and Anna Catharina -- start the listing on the third page of prior baptisms. Just as on the page for the Litweilers, the mother's maiden name is clearly given, as Hamrig, in the first listing. Butz apparently overlooked these maiden names. I believe her true name to be Emrich or Emmerich. No property or probate records under the spelling Hamrig are to be found, but initial H was commonly added or left out in orthography of this period. There was an Emrich/Emmerich family in Rockland, and also an Emmert family, as attested by wills and tax records; to date I have not identified Magdalena or Elisabeth in documents.*

28 Apr 1761				Peter Mertz
Unknown	Peter Bollinger	Heinrich	Elisabeth (Wohlraber)	Catharina Mertz

The sponsor is probably the immigrant Peter as his son Peter Jr. is not very old, even in 1764 -- though I have only guessed at Peter Jr.'s birth year. But Catharina Mertz is a very curious person. Nicholas did have a daughter named Catherine but she had died before the Orphan's court filing in 1762. So who is Catharina? Several of Nicholas' sons married women named Catharina, but they were too young to be married in 1764. I have always wondered if this might not be Peter's wife, but I think it then would have said Peter Mertz and Catharina or Peter Mertz and wife Catharina. So I simply do not know who she is. The other possibility is that Peter had a daughter named Catharina.

*The Bollingers have an entire page, the fourth, to themselves for the prior baptisms of 7 children. All entries are in the same hand, and it differs from the other pages; it is possible that this page's entries were made by the family. The formulaic wording of the entry for each child is different from the Litweiler and Mertz pages, but is consistent internally for the Bollingers. In each entry, the sponsor names are given last. The full last name of each woman is given, including when the husband is named, unlike other entries where the formula is "Johan Schmidt and his wife Anna Maria". The sponsors on this page include 4 couples with different last names, two married couples, namely "Philip Burger and his wife Salome Burgerin", "Jacob Reyn and his wife Susanna Reymin", as well as "Peter Martz and Cathrina Martzin". We will see this combination, both spouses with last names but without the "wife" being specifically designated in later years, and based on the internal consistency of this page, it could well be that the writer simply left out the words "his wife" for this baptism. See the next comment as well.*

16 Apr 1762				Peter Mertz
Unknown	Elisabeth Mertz	Jacob	Magdalena	Elizabeth Mertz

The new born is Elisabeth. The sponsor, Peter, may be Jacob's uncle. We will see Elizabeth Mertz as sponsor many, many times and eventually it will seem that she will have two different husbands (at the same time). I know that Nicholas had a daughter Elizabeth and so I have concluded that Peter also had a daughter of that name too.

*This entry, however, specifically makes clear that Elizabeth is not married to Peter, calling her "Elisabeth gebohrene Mertzin". It appears on the second page of prior baptisms, with the other children of Jacob and Magdalena, written by a different hand than the Bollinger page. So it seems there was no hard and fast rule for identifying women.*

22 Oct 1763				Philip Mertz
Unknown	Anna Catharina Mertz	Jacob	Magdalena	Catharina Braun

The new born is Catharina. While I observe many times in these records that the sponsor is a brother of the father, in this case I believe Jacob's cousin Philip is the sponsor. Jacob, son of Nicholas, had no brother named Philip. Philip, son of Peter, did have a brother Jacob -- but we can tell the two Jacob's apart by the name of their wife. This was not Philip's brother Jacob. Philip's brother Peter will marry Susanna Braun, this record may show that Philip "dated" Susanna's sister at some point.

Unknown				David Mertz
8 Apr 1764	David Hener	Adam	Wife	Catharina Sassemann

I think this was Adam Zehner and I think the birth date matches what people say is true about David Zehner, his son. "Wife" was Maria Mertz, daughter of Peter. The important question here is was the sponsor her grandfather, David, or her brother. Her brother David wrote his will in 1820 in Northumberland County and said he was 75, thus born 1745, so he was clearly old enough.

*As I commented previously, I suspect, were he alive, David the immigrant would have been named as a sponsor at one of the Litweiler baptisms. The immigrant John David does not appear in the earliest tax record for Longswamp, from 1755, either. He may have been dead by then, overage to be taxed, or had transferred his holdings to his sons, both of whom were taxpayers. This Hener baptism is the last entry on the "Litweiler page" cited above.*

Unknown				Peter Mertz
26 Feb 1769	Peter Schwartz	Daniel	Wife	Maria Schwartz

The sponsor is either the immigrant Peter or else his son Peter Jr.

Unknown				Johannes Burger
21 May 1769	Anna Margaretha Klein	Theobalt	Wife	Anna Maria Klein

Christina Mertz married first Theobalt Klein and married second (apparently in 1758) Peter Klein. There were 8 baptisms recorded at Longswamp on this day in what appears to be a "catch-up" day.

Indeed, from other information, Anna Margaretha was born in 1751 – so the record is correct in saying her father was Theobald, even though by 1769 he was many years deceased.

*The latter assumption is certainly correct, since Berks probate records contain Letters of Administration issued 7 July 1759 for the estate of Theobald Klein, to “Peter Klein and his wife Christina late the widow”. The probate file contains the petition for administration, an inventory and an accounting by the administrators filed in 1762. No children are mentioned. This baptismal record may be a catch-up for an older child.*

Unknown				David Mertz
7 Jun 1772	Anna Maria Berger	Nicklaus	Wife	Elisabeth Carl

I believe this is the David who was born in 1745 and had a child in 1781. I believe he was the son of the teenage immigrant Peter

*David Mertz was taxed as a single man in Longswamp in 1770. He did not appear in 1767 or 1768; no tax rolls for 1769 are extant. That tax record is the first evidence of his existence. The married Mertzes taxed in that year were Peter, Peter Jr, John and Henry.*

Unknown				Heinrich Fageley and wife
9 May 1773	Johan Heinrich Jaeger	Conrad	Wife	

*This appears to be the first record featuring Heinrich Fageley and Barbara nee Mertz.*

Unknown				Elizabeth Mertz
8 May 1774	Elisabeth Danckel	Johannes	Wife	Jacob Miller

The sponsor is one of the Elizabeth's.

Unknown				Heinrich Fageley and wife
8 May 1774	Heinrich Fageley	Christian	Wife	

*Another record for Heinrich and Barbara.*

Unknown				David Mertz
12 May 1774	Maria Barbara Mertz	Johannes	Wife	Barbara Drasser

The new born is Maria Barbara, named Barbara in her father's will. The sponsor is the ever popular David, brother, I believe, of Johannes.

Unknown				David Mertz
2 Oct 1774	David Mertz	Jacob	Wife	Barbara Muller

This is a very interesting record. It is interesting because the wife is not named. Up until now, when we have seen Jacob it was John Jacob with wife Magdalena. In 1776, we will start to see a different wife with Jacob, Margaretha (maiden name Miller), and the possibilities are that John Jacob remarried or that there is another Jacob on the scene. Since in the 1790 Census, we have two adult males named Jacob Mertz, I believe we can keep track of them somewhat by the names of their wives. And the presence of Barbara Muller as a sponsor I think indicates this is the younger Jacob. I believe the sponsor is his brother David and I believe both Jacob and David are sons of the immigrant Peter.

Jacob and David, the sons of Peter, both married supposedly Miller sisters. David, whose wife was named Barbara for sure, is said to have married Barbara Miller. And Jacob married Margaret Miller. So this is yet another example of my theory of baptisms as the late 1700's singles bars – two single people named as sponsors often later married. But interestingly, David Mertz had stood previously as sponsor with Elisabeth Carl and then Barbara Drescher and now finally Barbara Miller. In 1775, he will appear with Magdalena Klein and then in 1776 with Barbara Miller again -- a long and winding courtship.

*If we look back in the record, John Jacob son of Nicholas is conspicuous by his absence after the baptism of his three children, all listed on the same page of prior baptisms. He paid taxes in Longswamp in 1767 on his father's property, and in 1768 on livestock, but following the sale of*



*Nicholas' land in December 1767 to pay off the other heirs, he does not appear on the tax rolls still extant for 1770, 1779, and 1780-1788. In 1784, a Jacob Mertz was listed on the tax assessment in Longswamp with livestock and 6 "persons in household". Jacob and Margretha had baptized 7 children by then, if two did not survive this would match them.*

*I believe John Jacob took his family somewhere else, until he showed up in Augusta Twp, Northumberland County, in 1783. Then, we have tracked him to NY State by 1800. His son, also named Jacob, eventually married Sophia, who we believe was nee Karcher -- probably of the same Karcher family noted earlier.*

*At this point in the Longswamp record book, the format changes from brief formulaic paragraphs for each baptism to a set of three columns, for the infant's name and dates, the parents' names, and the sponsors. It also changes from German language and script to the Latin term for birth and baptism, and Roman letters in the main, with a few schrift letters. The exception is that the notation "both single" is in German when applied to sponsors. Butz' transcription was apparently highly inconsistent in noting these words, which I have supplied.*

10 Mar 1775				Elisabeth Mertz
16 Apr 1775	Elisabeth Voegele	Heinrich	Barbara	Peter Voegele

The mother is Peter's daughter, Barbara, who predeceases him. The sponsor is one of the Elizabeth's and one or the other of them later marries Peter Voegele, I believe.

*The record clearly notes "both single".*

14 Apr 1775				Johan Jacob Muller
1 Jun 1755	Elisabeth Klein	Nicholas	Elisabeth	Magdalena Kleinin, both single

*The parents appear to be Nicholas Klein and Maria Elisabeth Mertz, named in sister Maria's will.*

28 Jan 1776				Elisabeth Mertz (single)
25 Feb 1776	Johannes Mertz	Johannes	Margaretha	Conrad Drescher

The new born is Johannes, identified later in his father's, Peter's, will. The sponsor is one of the Elizabeth's and one or the other of them later marries Conrad Drescher, I believe.

*The record clearly notes "both single".*

24 Aug 1775				David Mertz
26 Mar 1776	Maria Magdalena Dormeyer	Peter	Catharina	Magdalena Klein (single)

The sponsor is the ever popular David.

*The record clearly notes "both single".*

19 Nov 1775				Elisabeth Mertz
26 Mar 1776	Johan Heinrich Mertz	Jacob	Margaretha	Heinrich Muller

The new born is John Henry and the father is the younger Jacob, married to Margaretha. I believe the sponsors are his sister and her brother.

*The record clearly notes "both single".*

25 Jul 1776				Abraham Mertz,
20 Oct 1776	Abraham Voegele	Heinrich	Barbara	Barbara Drescher

Another child of Heinrich and Barbara (nee Mertz). But who was the sponsor Abraham Mertz? I'll hold off on speculating as he reappears soon.

*The record clearly notes "both single".*

19 Sep 1776				Conrad Drescher and Elisabetha
20 Oct 1776	Jonathan Mertz	Peter	Susanna	

The newborn is Jonathan and his father is Peter Jr. I believe the sponsor is Peter's sister Elisabetha who has now married Conrad Drescher. Jonathan plays an important role in how I came to understand that all the early Mertzes of Northumberland County were Longswamp Mertzes. I had first determined that my Philip was a Longswamp Mertz and then when I realized that Peter of Northumberland County had a son named Jonathan -- an unusual name for that time

period, not Johannes of which there were many, but Jonathan -- that I had another "aha moment". Peter too must be of Longswamp. I then was able to conclude that so too were David, Jacob, Conrad and Nicholas -- the other Northumberland County pioneer Mertz.

*Sponsors are listed as "Conrad Drescher and Elisabetha his wife".*

16 Jun 1776				David Mertz
17 Nov 1776	Susanna Mertz	Philip	Eva	Barbara Muller (single)

The new born is Susanna (identified later in her father's will). The sponsor is Philip's brother David and (fiancé?) Barbara Miller again. They're making the rounds.

*The record clearly notes "both single".*

22 Nov 1776				Abraham Mertz
15 Dec 1776	Anna Barbara Mertz	Jacob	Margaretha	Barbara Muller (single)

The new born is Anna Barbara. And here we have Abraham again as sponsor and Barbara Miller, presumably Margaret's sister. Things don't seem to have clarified yet between David and Barbara.

*The record clearly notes "both single".*

10 Mar 1777				
8 May 1777	Isaac Mertz	Niclaus	Catharina	Peter Klein, Christina Klein

The new born is Isaac and his father is Nicholas. The sponsors are most certainly Nicholas' aunt Christina and her husband Peter, but note the names are listed in similar fashion to Peter Mertz, Catharina Mertz on the 1761 baptism of Peter Bollinger. It leaves open the possibility that Peter's wife was Catharina.

*I cannot explain Butz' transcription for this, but the record clearly shows the sponsors as "Peter Klein et Christina ejus uxor", Peter Klein and Christina his wife. The names are in a columnar, readable format at this stage, completely unlike the Bollinger page.*

For a long time, I wasn't sure whether there was only one Generation III Nicholas, or two. We know from Orphans Court records that Nicholas, the teenage immigrant, had a son of that name. And we know that Peter, the other teenage immigrant, named Nicholas an Executor of his will, but I wasn't willing to let that alone prove he also had a son of that name, allowing that perhaps he named his nephew. But Mary Lou found the key document -- the sale of Peter's land after his death by his sons Nicholas and Peter -- that proved Peter indeed did have a son named Nicholas. And this was him.

This Nicholas, like most of his brothers was a Northumberland County Pioneer, in his case settling in Middleburg (now Snyder County) near my Philip who settled in Freeburg. Isaac later was an early important founder of New Berlin in now Union County.

19 Mar 1777				
19 May 1777	Susanna Drescher	Conrad	Elisabetha	Johannes Mertz and Margaretha

Elisabetha Drescher must be maiden name Mertz. She also was a sponsor previously. It strikes me that since her appearances are generally with the sons of Peter and here her sponsor is one of his sons, I believe it was Peter's daughter Elizabeth who married Conrad Drescher.

7 Sep 1777				
23 Nov 1777	Ester Mertz	Peter	Susanna	Johannes Mertz and Margaretha

The new born is Ester and her father is Peter Jr. The sponsor is his brother John and his wife.

9 Nov 1777				
21 Dec 1777	Anna Eva Mertz	Philip	Eva	Johannes Mertz and wife Margaretha

The new born is Anna Eva (identified from her father's will) and the father is Philip. The sponsor is his brother John and his wife.

9 Feb 1778				
15 Mar 1778	Catharina Mertz	Jacob	Margretha	Niclaus Mertz and Catharina

The new born is Catharina. The sponsor is Jacob's brother Nicholas and his wife.

24 Sep 1778				Abraham Mertz
25 Oct 1778	Abraham Drescher	Conrad	Elisabetha	Christina Drescher (single)

Abraham as sponsor again. Remember, Elisabetha is nee Mertz.

*The record clearly notes "both single".*

9 Oct 1778				
6 Dec 1778	Anna Maria Mertz	Peter	Susanna	Heinrich Voegele and wife Barbara

The new born is Anna Maria and her father, Peter Jr. The sponsor is his sister Barbara.

10 Feb 1779				
28 Mar 1779	Maria Catharina Voegele	Henrich	Barbara	Christian Voegele and Anna Maria

Here is another child of Barbara (Mertz) Voegele who you would think must have died young, since she was also not named in Heinrich's petition.

*So it would seem, since she is not listed as entitled to a share of her grandfather Peter's estate. However, Item 4 of the LDS film #1294878, Burial records of Pastor Hillfrich at Longswamp transcribed by Butz, includes Catharina Wetzel, 10 Feb 1779 to 19 Nov 1829, parents Heinrich Fegely and Barbara (Mertz), wife of George Wetzel, married 12 May 1801; the record noted 3 children, and 3 grandchildren. There was more than one George Wetzel living in this period; one died 1803 and another 1834.*

12 Apr 1779				
23 May 1779	Elisabeth Mertz	Philip	Eva	Peter Voegele and wife Elisabetha

The new born is Elisabeth and her father is my ancestor Philip. I think the sponsor is the other Elizabeth, who married Peter Voegele. I've spent a fair amount of time over the years trying to figure out which Elisabeth was which and my best guess is that Nicholas's daughter Elisabeth married Lawrence Schollenberger, Peter's daughter Elisabeth married Conrad Drescher and John Jacob's daughter Elisabeth married Peter Voegele.

7 Sep 1779				
8 Oct 1779	Elisabetha Kayser	Joseph	Magdalena	Peter Klein and Eva Margaretha

*This seems to be the first appearance in the record of Peter Klein, son of Peter and Christina.*

15 Sep 1779				
7 Nov 1779	Joh Peter Diehl	Phillip	Sophia	Peter Voegele and wife Elisabetha

Another Diehl. I think the sponsor is the other Elizabeth, who married Peter Voegele.

9 Nov 1779				
17 Dec 1779	Daniel Mertz	Peter	Susanna	Peter Klein and wife Christina

The new born is Daniel and his father is Peter Jr. The sponsor is Peter's Aunt Christina.

19 Nov 1779				
17 Dec 1779	Johan Heinrich Niederauer	Michael	Magdalena	Heinrich Mertz and wife Catharina

Another interesting record. This is one of four appearances Henry makes in these records, always as a sponsor, never a father. Nicholas had a son Henry and this is probably him.

27 Jan 1780				Niclaus Mertz
26 Mar 1780	Susanna Siebert	Conrad	Magdalena	Elisabeth Braun, single

We know from Orphan's Court records filed after Nicholas Sr.'s death that he had a daughter Maria Magdalena who married Conrad Siebert. The sponsor is her brother Nicholas. This is his first appearance in these records.

*The record clearly notes "both single".*

3 Feb 1780				
26 Mar 1780	Abraham Mertz	Niclaus	Catharina	Johannes Mertz and Margretha



The new born is Abraham and his father is Peter's son Nicholas. The sponsors are Nicholas' brother John and his wife. This is a key birth. A man named Abraham Martz is buried in Pickaway County, Ohio and his tombstone indicates a birth date of 3 Feb 1780. A man named Peter Martz died in Arcadia, Indiana and was the progenitor of quite a large family of Martzes in that place. His tombstone indicates a 1789 birth. It is known that Peter married in Pickaway County, Ohio in about the same time period as when Abraham is known to have arrived there. From the Orphans Court records in Northumberland County of Nicholas of Middleburg, it is known that he not only had the sons known from Longswamp records but he also had a son Peter who "was above the age of 14" in 1804. Connecting the dots, I believe all the evidence suggests that Abraham of Pickaway County and Peter of Arcadia were sons of Nicholas of Longswamp then Middleburg.

*Following this entry, the columnar format continues to the bottom of the page, for 4 more entries, but the language and alphabet change to German again.*

14 Feb 1780				
20 Oct 1780	(Unnamed) Mertz	Niclaus	Catharina	John Volck and Marilisa

The father is Nicholas, son of Peter.

*The format of the parents names here is actually "Nichlaus Mertz, Catrina Mertzin" which argues that this could be used for a married couple. All four of the entries in this section are unnamed children, the same three-word phrase, not yet deciphered, accompanies the birth and baptisms dates for all.*

13 Nov 1780				
19 Nov 1780	(Unnamed) Fogle	Heinrich	Barbara	John Mertz and Margaretha

The mother is Barbara nee Mertz. The sponsor is her brother John. When Peter Mertz died in 1787, Henry Fegely only claimed two children: Philip and Elisabeth but so far they have baptized Maria Catharina, Elizabeth, Abraham and now unnamed. You'd think if this was the birth of her son Philip that she would have had her brother Philip as sponsor.

*After this point, the format abandons the columns and returns to paragraphs written in German in an educated hand, with entries by other writers interspersed occasionally.*

Unknown				Abraham Mertz
4 Jun 1781	Daughter Mertz	David	Wife	Maria Muller

It is this record that proves there is an extra David floating around different than John David and the David born in 1774. I believe he is the David who writes his will in 1820 saying he is 75 years old. And here is Abraham again. Maria Miller may be the sister of David's wife Barbara.

*As noted above, David was taxed in 1770 as single, and also in 1779. He appears on the married tax rolls in 1780 and 1781; in 1784 3 persons were in his household (in addition to him). In addition, the baby's name is clearly given as Elisabeth in a slightly different word order than usual; Butz just missed it.*

27 Jun 1781				
2 Sep 1781	Daughter Mertz	Jacob	Wife	John Mertz and wife Margaretha

The father is Jacob, son of Peter. The sponsor is his brother John.

30 Mar 1782				
Unknown	Jacob Mertz	Niclaus	Wife	Jacob Mertz and wife Margretha

I believe this is the Jacob who is buried in Lewisburg Cemetery and whose tombstone says he was born 4 Dec 1781. The translations of the Longswamp records are somewhat ambiguous as to whether 30 Mar 1782 was the date of birth or baptism. However, this record immediately follows three other records that represent baptisms on 30 Mar 1782 with no birth date given. And the records immediately following this one are written in a different hand and perhaps represent a skip in time. So I believe this indeed is Jacob born 4 Dec 1781 and that he was baptized on 30 Mar

1782. We know that the father Nicholas moved to Middleburg, PA a few years after this and we know that Jacob who died in Lewisburg married a girl from Middleburg – it all adds up.

*The original German record confirms that 30 March is the baptism date and no birth date is given. This entry follows the two listed for the same date just below.*

30 Mar 1782

Unknown	Anna Maria Voegele	Peter	Wife	Philip Mertz and wife Eva
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The sponsor is Philip and the mother Elizabeth nee Mertz.

30 Mar 1782

Unknown	Catharina Siebert	Conrad	Wife	Heinrich Mertz and wife Catharina
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The mother is Magdalena nee Mertz, the sponsor is her brother Henry.

29 May 1782

Unknown	Daughter Mertz	John	Wife	Conrad Drescher Gertraut Sassman
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The father is Johannes.

1 Jun 1782

Unknown	Son Mertz	David	Wife	Jacob Miller and wife
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The father is David. Jacob Miller is David's father-in-law, I would guess.

Unknown

2 Jun 1782	Maria Eva Mertz	Jacob	Wife	Eva Mertz
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The new born is Maria Eva and the father is Jacob, son of Peter. The sponsor is his brother Philip's wife. Where is Philip?

8 Oct 1782

17 Nov 1782	Anna Maria Drescher	Conrad	Elisabetha	Christian Voegele and wife Anna Maria
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The mother is Elizabeth (nee Mertz).

11 Dec 1782

Unknown	Christian Klein	Peter	Wife	Peter Klein Sr. and wife
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The sponsor is Christina (nee Mertz), the grandmother of the infant, obviously named after her.

Unknown

21 Apr 1783	Magdalena Mertz	Jacob	Wife	Jacob Muller and wife Magdalena
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The new born is Magdalena and the father is Jacob Jr. Jacob Miller is the father-in-law, I believe, of Jacob Mertz.

26 Feb 1783

25 May 1783	Abraham Mertz	Philip	Wife	Abraham Mertz and wife Catharina
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The new born is Abraham, named in his father Philip's will and here we have Abraham again. When I first did this analysis, I noted that he first appeared in the records as a sponsor in 1776 and now was married in 1783. I thought at first he was perhaps a very early Generation IV Mertz and that would make him the son of John Jacob, but I am now convinced he was probably about the youngest Generation III Mertz and he was the son of Peter.

For one thing, a Scott Martz from Michigan found my website and contacted me about Abraham, who he believed was his ancestor (though I think I have proven he was mistaken in that notion). Scott pointed out to me what my own data showed -- but which I hadn't laid out in quite the way Scott got me to see it -- and that was that Abraham was always the sponsor for Peter's grandchildren. This also caused me to look more closely at the tax lists of Berks/Longswamp from that period and those too convinced me that 1.) Abraham was a little older than I had thought originally and 2.) he seemed to be closely associated with Peter.

*Abraham Mertz was taxed as a single man in Longswamp in 1779, 1780 and 1781. No tax records survive between 1770 and 1779 for this township. In most years, men had to be 21 to be taxed as*

*single suggesting a birth date of no later than 1758, making Peter Sr. more likely as father than J.Jacob.*

This is as far as Mary Lou Kueker got in her review and commentary on my original analysis. She would send me her comments from time to time and was clearly going through it from beginning to end. When the comments stopped coming and I realized I had not heard from her in quite a while, I investigated and determined she had died. I suspect she would have added any number of additional insightful comments to the pages that follow, had time not run out on her. Too bad. As any reader of this document can tell, she was incredibly thorough in her analysis and greatly enhanced my original work.

21 Aug 1782

7 Sep 1783

Susanna Voegelé

Henrich

Wife

Henrich Muller

Elisabetha Drescher

Yet another child of Barbara Voegelé. When the immigrant Peter died, Henry Fegely (Voegelé) filed documents naming just two children of his deceased wife so they would be known heirs of Peter – their names were Philip and Elisabeth. But, curiously, Henry's list of children was for some reason very incomplete. There were others whose names are known from Henry's 1829 estate file and whose names in many cases match the names of children he and Barbara baptized.

17 Apr 1784

Unknown

Maria Catharina Welsch

Jacob

Catrina

Conrad Mertz

Catrina Holleberger

The mother, I believe, is Catherine, daughter of Jacob Mertz, whose 1763 birth is noted earlier in this document. She married Jacob Welsh who was listed with Jacob Mertz and Conrad Mertz as early settlers of Steuben County, NY. I think the sponsor, Conrad, is Catrina's brother.

I would very much liked to have known Mary Lou's comments on this birth. I think it may mean that John Jacob was still present in Longswamp -- or at least his family was -- in 1784. I would call this the last mention of John Jacob and/or his family in these records and that fits quite nicely with his appearance in Augusta Township, Northumberland County in 1783. Maybe he went first to find a farm and his family soon followed.

20 May 1784

Unknown

Philip Mertz

Johannes

Wife

Philip Mertz and wife Eva

The new born is Philip – he is the Philip, son of John referred to in the immigrant Peter's 1787 will. The sponsor is John's brother Philip.

Unknown

18 Jul 1784

Elisabetha Voegelé

Peter

Wife

Henrich Muller

Sybilla Borkhart

The mother is Elizabeth (nee Mertz).

15 Oct 1784

Unknown

David Mertz

David

Wife

Christian Miller and wife Barbara

The new born is David Jr. Christian Miller may be the brother-in-law of David Mertz.

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Note – this is the last appearance in these records of David, both Jacobs, Philip, Nicholas, Peter and Conrad Mertz – the exact six names known to appear in Northumberland County starting in 1785 and all present there before 1790. (There is a Peter Mertz listed as father in 1808 in the records that follow but I believe he was a son of one of the few Mertzes that stayed on in Longswamp.)

---

16 Aug 1784

Unknown

Peter Klein

Peter

Wife

Adam Klein

Barbara Lichtel

I think this must be Peter Klein III, grandson of Christina, daughter of John David.

22 Jan 1786

19 Mar 1786

Johan Georg Mertz

Abraham

Catharina

Leon Grismer and wife Elisabeth

The new born is John George. Leonard Grisemer later mentioned his daughter Catharina, wife of Abraham Mertz, in his will. Abraham and Catharina stayed behind in Longswamp when his brothers left for Northumberland County.

3 Mar 1786

Unknown	Abraham Voegele	Henrich	Barbara	Lorentz Trescher and wife
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This is the second son Abraham that Barbara (Mertz) Fegley baptized. Since she pre-deceased her father, this was no doubt the last child she had.

8 Jan 1787

Unknown	Johannes Mertz	Abraham	Catharina	Adam Klein Elisabetha Mertz
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The new born is Johannes and his father is Abraham. The sponsor is yet another Elizabeth, from the next generation, I suspect.

17 Nov 1787

Unknown	Elisabeth Klein	Peter	Eva Margaretha	Joseph Keiser and wife
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I'm listing the Klein children since they are descendants of Christina Mertz. This is the second instance of a Klein-Kayser (Kesier) connection.

4 Aug 1787

Unknown	Christian Voegele	Peter	Elisabetha	Christian Voegele and Anna Maria
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The mother is Elizabeth (nee Mertz).

9 Feb 1788

Unknown	Peter Volck	Peter	Wife	Heinrich Mertz and wife Catharina
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The sponsor is Henry. I believe he was the son of the older Nicholas. Henry married Catharina Heckman. I believe Henry and Abraham are but the two Mertzes who stayed on in Longswamp after the others departed for Northumberland County. (Well the family of John, who pre-deceased his father Peter, also stayed on for awhile, then also moved To Northumberland County.)

11 Mar 1790

Unknown	Goerg Borger	Daniel	Sybilla	Peter Voegele and wife Elisabetha
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The sponsor is Elizabeth (nee Mertz).

4 Mar 1790

Unknown	Henrich Borger	Heinrich	Catharina	Heinrich Mertz and wife Catharina
---------	----------------	----------	-----------	-----------------------------------

The sponsor is Henry again.

13 Oct 1790

Unknown	Barbara Drescher	Samuel	Anna Maria	Conrad Drescher and Elisabetha
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The sponsor is Elizabeth (nee Mertz).

3 Mar 1791

Unknown	Benjamin Harmony	Philip	Barbara	Peter Klein Jr. and wife Margaretha
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I'm listing the Klein children since they are descendants of Christina Mertz. Notice the Harmony name. John Martz who eventually settled in and was the progenitor of the Augliaze, OH line married a Harmony, from New Berlin, I think.

21 Jun 1799

19 Sep 1802	Jacob Mertz	Abraham	Catharina	Johannes and Margretha Weiler
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The father is Abraham again. It is clear evidence that Abraham also stayed on in Longswamp. I suspect that those Mertzes staying on did so because their wives did not want to leave their family.

6 Jun 1801

26 Jul 1801	Johannes Mertz	Johannes	Catharina	Jacob Trexler Maria Drescher, single
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The father is Johannes born 1776, son of Johannes who died in 1786, another segment of the family that stayed on in Longswamp -- for a while. But sometime between 1800 and 1810, John and Catharina moved to Upper Mahanoy Township, Northumberland County where their presence in the records of Howerter's Church with children having names known from Longswamp including their daughter Barbara who married Peter Metzger confirms it is all this family.

