

III.

REVOLUTIONARY PENSIONERS LIVING IN LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, IN 1840

RAPHO		Catharine Eicholtz ...	age not given
Jacob Brown	aged 85	Thomas Shay	"
MANHEIM		Catharine Fry	"
Peter Maurer	" 83	William Low	aged 83
WEST DONEGAL		EAST COCALICO	
Peter Sheaffer	" 89	Andrew Ream	" 84
EAST HEMPFIELD		Harry Ream	" 84
John Patterson	" 81	WEST COCALICO	
WEST HEMPFIELD		David Landis	" 84
Isaac O. Donnell (?)..	" 67	Henry Reinhold	" 82
LANCASTER CITY		ELIZABETH	
John Riverson	age not given	Abraham Eshleman ..	" 82
Joseph Peterman	"	EARL	
Patty Merritt	"	David Diffenderfer ...	" 91
Mary Carpenter	"	Jacob Diffenderfer ...	" 83
Jacob Keller	aged 78	CAERNARVON	
Eliza Trisler	age not given	Adam Northamer	" 81
Molly Lochnecker	"	BRECKNOCK	
Samuel Ludwig	"	Barbara Sweigan	age not given
Susan Roth	"	Jesse Stover	"
Catharine Gonech (?)	"	LITTLE BRITAIN	
Casper Hubbert (?) ..	aged 78	Robert Dugless	aged 76
George Leonard	" 82	MARTICK	
John Gontz	age not given	John Bain	" 103
Michael Gumph	aged 76	William Henzell	" 90
Frederick Seip	age not given		
Catherine Gemchorn (?)	"		
Legal Dutrich	"		
Jacob Long	aged 82		
John Gonter	" 82		
Peter Schindle	" 80		
Christopher Gumph ..	" 80		
Peter Brunner	" 77		

The foregoing is taken from "A List of Pensioners for Military Service" published in 1840 by the Secretary of State by act of Congress.

The figures show the ages of the pensioners in 1840. It will be observed that John Bain in Martick Township was aged 103 in 1840.

CHARLES E. KEMPER.

By H. Frank Eshleman

It is of course, impossible to give any extended record of the careers of the above worthies, because of the lapse of time and the dearth of material. However, if their military service was connected with American Independence, every scrap of information about them is of precious value. American Independence is the greatest event of the world since the Protestant Reformation.

Our Court records show certain facts concerning persons of the same names and locations and age in which these men lived. As it is practically certain that those records are of the same persons whose names appear in the pension lists, I will give the facts of the record, without any assertion that they refer to the same persons whose names appear in the list. The facts are taken exclusively from the Will Books.

JACOB BROWN, OF RAPHO

Jacob Brown's will is dated Sept. 17, 1838, and is recorded in Will Book T Vol. 1 p. 176. He describes himself as of the town of Manheim. He gives his property to his wife Catherine and at her death divides it among Mary, widow of his son John, and his sons Solomon, Jacob, William, James, Isaac, his daughter Catharine, wife of Thos. Dehart and Mary his daughter, wife of John Frantz. Letters testamentary were granted on the will Feb. 21, 1843.

PETER MAURER, OF MANHEIM

Peter Maurer's will is dated Feb. 20, 1836 and is recorded in Will Book U Vol. 1 p. 321. It is a long will and disposes of several tracts of real estate all in Manheim Township. His beneficiaries are his daughter-in-law Elizabeth Maurer, a daughter of Andrew Leibley, widow of his son Henry; and when said Henry's youngest son arrives at 21 years of age his children Henry, Peter, Jacob, Eliza, Ann and Margaret take the property. Letters testamentary were issued May 29, 1847.

Peter Maurer owned several tracts of land in said township and among them a "tavern house" where he lived, built on a tract of ten acres.

JOHN PATTERSON, OF EAST HEMPFIELD

John Patterson's will is dated Oct. 15, 1841. He describes himself as of East Hempfield Township, living at Rohrerstown. He gives his estate to David B. Vondersmith in trust for his daughter Catharine, wife of James Hogendobler. He gives his son George and his daughter Mary, wife of Josiah Shufflebottom, and his grand-daughter Elizabeth Patterson, child of his deceased son John Patterson each one dollar. He makes Catharine his executrix and signs his will by mark. Letters testamentary were granted April 10, 1843.

MICHAEL GUMPH, LANCASTER CITY

Michael Gumph's will is dated Apr. 30, 1838 and is recorded in Will Book T Vol. 1 p. 297. He declares that an accident years ago made him lame. He gives his estate to his wife Margaret for wife or widowhood. After her death or marriage he gives the estate to his children, Samuel, John, Margaret, wife of John Black, Elizabeth, widow of Daniel Hartman, Jacob, Maria, Catharine and Susan. He makes his wife and son Jacob and son-in-law, John Black, executors. He states that his son John has been absent many years not heard of. Letters testamentary were granted Sept. 29, 1843.

JACOB LONG, SA., OF LANCASTER

This will is recorded in Will Book W Vol. 1 p. 65. It is dated Sept. 13, 1832. He seems to have been an ancestor of Hon. Henry Long.

PETER SHINDLE, OF LANCASTER

Peter Shindle's will is dated July 1846 and is recorded in Will Book U Vol. 1 p. 660. He gives his estate to his wife Elizabeth for life and provides that his daughters Elizabeth and Catharine shall enjoy the home on North Queen Street with her. He puts his son Jacob's share in trust for benefit of himself and his wife Susan, and gives them for life the house in Bethelstown part of Lancaster. He gives his daughter Maria, wife of Philip Reitzel, Esq., use of the house they lived in on Orange Street. He refers to his grandson William Waggoner Reitzel; and to Elizabeth Shindle, wife of his deceased son John Shindle. He refers to his grandsons John, George and Jacob, sons of his son Jacob. Letters testamentary were issued Feb. 15, 1849.

ANDREW REAM, Sr., OF REAMSTOWN, EAST COCALICO

Andrew Ream's will is dated Sept. 6, 1842 and is recorded in Will Book T Vol. 1 p. 560. He refers to his wife Barbara and gives her his estate for life, except his tools. He had a house and lot in Reamstown. At his wife's death his estate was given to the widow of his son Samuel, Rebecca wife of Michael Reaser a daughter, Nancy wife of Abraham Kindig, a daughter, his daughter Sarah wife of John Kraft, his sons Andrew Ream, Jr., John Ream, Peter Ream and Charles Ream and his daughter Juliana, wife of Emanuel Wickle. Letters testamentary were granted March 26, 1845. The witnesses were Cyrus Ream and Curtis Ream.

DAVID LANDES, WEST COCALICO

David Landes' will is dated July 2, 1837. It is recorded in Will Book V Vol. 1 p. 191. He refers to his wife Catharine. He makes provisions by which his wife shall be furnished wheat, rye, corn, wool, tallow, flax, pork, beef, cider, apples, fowls, eggs, firewood and interest on \$1000. He gives his son John 100 acres farm at \$6400. He gives bequests to his daughter Eve, wife of George Harmon, to daughter Mary Landes, daughter Ann, wife of John Spaid, to Catharine and Esther Landes daughters, his son John and his daughter Jane, wife of George Bingaman. Letters were granted May 14, 1852.

HENRY REINHOLD, WEST COCALICO

Wills of "Henry Reinhold" of Cocalico Township appear of record in Will Book T Vol. 1 p. 553 and Will Book V Vol. 1 p. 219. They are both recorded in German.

DAVID DIFFENDERFER, OF EARL

David Diffenderfer's will is dated Jan. 14, 1836 and is recorded in Will Book U Vol. 1 p. 110. He states that he is of New Holland in Earl Township. He mentions his daughter Polly, wife of John Johns; and his three sons Daniel, Michael and John. He makes Michael and John executors. The witnesses were John W. Luther and Roland Diller. Letters testamentary were issued May 25, 1846.

JACOB DIFFENDERFER, OF EARL

Jacob Diffenderfer states that he lives in the Village of New Holland. His will is dated Mar. 13, 1841, and is recorded in Will Book W. Vol. 1 p. 6. He mentions his daughter Eliza, wife of John Weigand; also his son Solomon. He mentions his house and lot in New Holland adjoining Samuel Zeeber on the east, Henry Roland on the west and the turnpike on the south. He gives Eliza \$200 and Solomon all the rest of his estate because he says Solomon kept him a long time. He does not mention who the other children are. The witnesses are Gabriel Davis, Benj. Diffenderfer and Roland Diller. Letters were granted Sept. 11, 1855.

WILLIAM HENZEL, OF MARTICK

William Henzel's will is dated Oct. 1, 1841 and is recorded in Will Book T Vol. 1 p. 117. He describes himself as a carpenter and living in Martick Township. He gives his estate to his son George's five children, George being dead, and to his other children, John, Jacob, William, Catharine, wife of Wm. Haulick, Elizabeth, wife of Daniel East, and Maria, wife of Jonas Hunter. His son Jacob and his son-in-law Jonas Hunter were executors. The witnesses were James Reilly and John Ankrim. Letters were granted Oct. 15, 1842.

The above notes are given for the purpose of setting out who the descendants of the said pensioners were, in order that a beginning point may be made whereby those who are the present day descendants of these ancients may establish their relationship and thus both receive and help to keep alive the glory which originated in these ancient patriots of the Revolutionary War days or perhaps the War of 1812.

NOTES BY C. H. MARTIN

Peter Maurer born in June 1757, volunteered in 1776 and under Capt. John Henry, went to Phila., Trenton and Elizabethtown, N. J. After a tour of two months he returned to Lancaster and late in the fall under his former captain went to Phila., later to Burlington, Trenton and Elizabethtown, N. J., where they united with the main Army, in winter quarters and helped to build a fort. After serving a second tour returned home and aided in guarding Hessians and other prisoners, nearly 2,000 in number. When the Hessians were taken to New York to be exchanged for American prisoners Peter Maurer accompanied them. He saw Washington and Lafayette frequently during the war and in 1824 dined with Lafayette at Lancaster. He was a witness of the Paxtang Boys outing at the old jail, having run to the jail yard after the massacre.

He was married in 1780 to Elizabeth Graffort at the First Reformed Church, Lancaster. About 1790 he bought a tract of land in Manheim Twp., at the intersection of the Lititz and Oregon Pikes about 2 squares beyond the present stock yards, where he lived for many years. He died in 1847. He was buried in the Lancaster cemetery. One of his descendants Mrs. David F. Watt holds the deed, by inheritance, to the burial lot and has much of his Revolutionary equipage, such as the sword, belt, hat, etc. in her possession, as priceless heirlooms.

The Society made an effort through Mr. Worner to ascertain additional facts upon the above list of pensioners. On inquiry Mr. Worner received the following reply:

Washington, May 19, 1923.

Mr. William Frederic Worner,
Cor. Sec. Lancaster Co. Historical Society,
Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Dear Sir;

In response to your letter of the 15th instant, I have to advise you that owing to the great pressure of current work, the large number of similar inquiries and the lack of a clerical force available for such a purpose, this Bureau is unable to make a series of investigations and reports in regard to a number of pensioners of wars prior to 1840 for any person or organization, therefore it is not practicable to verify the list of forty four pensioners, sent by you, who resided in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1840 and inform you for what service they were pensioned in order that the Lancaster County Historical Society publish said records.

You or any one designated by you, may examine and collect data from said claims, which is the usual practice in such cases.

Respectfully,

WASHINGTON GARDNER,
Commissioner.