KERSHNER

Johan Georg Kirschner (George Kersener) b. ca. 1685, Germany d. 1748, Prince Georges County, Maryland.

immigrated to America on the ship Samuel, arriving at Philadelphia 17 August 1731. After a short stay in Pennsylvania, possibly in Bucks Co. where he owned land, he and his family removed to Western Maryland just across the line. Arriving perhaps about 1736, in 1739 he acquired property called Dutch Folly near Conococheague Creek.

Anna . . . . (Anna Kersener) b. ca. 1700-1703 d. ca. 1769-1771

his wife, and three children under the age of 16 came with him in 1731. After his death, Anna received additional land patents in her own name in 1749 and 1759.

Their children included:

Martin Kirshner Sen^{r} b. ca. 1720?, Germany d. Dec. 1769, Frederick Co. Maryland

As heir-at-law to his parents' entire estate, he must have been the oldest son. About 1742 he married Margaretha . . . . , his oldest son Martin being born 1743. Martin Kirshner was a miller.

Elisabetha Kershner b. ca. 1722? Germany d. 16 April 1765, Frederick Co., Md.

married Jonathan Hager in 1740. Their issue: Rosina b. 1752, who married Daniel Heister, and Jonathan Jr. b 1755. Jonathan Sr. was killed 1775 in an accident.

Barbary Kershner b. ca. 1724-1728? Germany d. before 1769?

married (possibly George, son of Peter) Reitnauer, left (possibly) two daughters, Margaretha and Elisabetha, born after 1748.

? Phillip Kershner (barely possible)

who is said to have settled in the Conococheage area 1730-1740 and had son Jacob born 1751.

John Kershner b. ca. 1740-1744? d. 1822, Washington Co. Maryland

married ca. 1768 Anna Marie . . . . (possible daughter of Mathias Ridenour: Ref: Wash Co. Md. Wills A-262, 1792). Deacon, Salem Reformed Church 1782-1786. Shared lands of Johan Georg and Anna Kersener equally with his brother George, 1773.

George Kershner (Sr.) b. ca. 1743-1745?

married Maria . . . . Shared lands of Johan Georg and Anna Kersener equally with his brother John, 1773. They might have been twins. The Mary Kirshner formerly of Washington Co. Md. who died at an advanced age in Bedford Co. Pa., 1830, may have been his widow.

Possibly others.
Probably other daughters.

Martin Kirshner (Sen^{r})
b. ca. 1720?, Germany
d. Dec. 1769

oldest son and heir of Johan Corg Kirschner and wife Anna: immigrated from the Palatinate with his parents, arriving at Philadelphia 17 August 1731. From Pennsylvania (Bucks Co.?) probably about 1736. He established a mill by 1765, apparently on the nearby Conococheague Creek.
Married, about 1742?,

Margaretha . . . .

for whomhe provided generously in his will of 1769. She was to have yearly a whole list of necessaries, including the wood of two sheep, a quarter acre of flax ready for the wheel, two pair of shoes, 52 bushels of wheat, two barrels of cider, 25 gallons of rye liquor, etc., etc., and the services of an indentured mulatto servant, Nancy.

Their children included:

Martin Kershner (Jun^{r})
b. ca. 1743
d. 19 Nov. 1817, age 74, Washington Co. Md.

married (1) Elisabetha Schnably, their issue being eight daughters and one son, Andrew;
(2) 19 Jan. 1804, Madalena Ankeny, widow of John Ankeny, who had a large family. They had no issue.

Magdalena Kershner
b. 1744
d. 30 Dec. 1818, Butler Co. Ohio

married (1) ca. 1763, Martin Baum who died in 1767. Their issue: three sons.
(2) ca. 1769, Rudolph Flenner, son of Johannes. Their issue: 14 children. They removed to Butler County Ohio, 1802.

Jacob Kershner
b. ca. 1746?
d. before 1784

married ca. 1764 Hannah Miller, daughter of Conrod Miller, for which he was disinherited. Their issue: Jonathan, Jacob, Susannah Volgamott.

David Kershner
b. ca. 1748
d. Mar. 1816

married ca. 1771-1772 Elisabetha Olinger, daughter of Philip (ship Friendship, 1741, age 20) and wife Juliana. Children baptized at Salem Reformed Church near Hagerstown, Maryland.

Elisabetha Kershner
b. ca. 1750?
(perhaps much earlier)

married, before 1770, (1) George Schultz b. 1711 (a widower?) Schwenkfelder (Swiss protestant) merchant from Philadelphia who came to Maryland 1757, died 1779, leaving two sons, the youngest born 1763, and four daughters. Three of his children were married.
(2) before 1784, Martin Harry, a widower with seven sons. He died 1788 and in 1789 she had removed to Augusta Co. Va. where George Schultz Jr. also went.

Margaretha Kershner

married, between 1769 and 1772, Henry Zellar

George Kershner (Jr.)
b. ca. 1755-1760?

too young to be apprenticed in 1769, he married before 1785 Mary Flenner, daughter of Johannes: to Ohio about 1802, removed his family there 1804. George and Mary both died of cholera and are buried in Butler Co. Ohio. in the Flenner cemetary.

David Kershner
b. ca. 1748?
Prince Georges Co., Maryland
d. March 1816
Christian Co.,Ky.

son of Martin Kirshner Sen^r, the miller of the Conococheague in Western Maryland, now Washington Co. He possibly learned a trade in his youth and may never have been a serious farmer. In 1782 and 1784 he was listed as a deacon of the Salem Reformed Church near Hagerstown. He married, about 1771-1772,

Elizabeth Olinger
b. ca. 1750?
d. after 1819

daughter of Philip and Juliana Olinger, who removed from Jerusalemtown (Funkstown) in then Frederick Co. in Western Maryland to Augusta Co. Va. in 1774. David and Elizabeth removed to Augusta Co. Va. about 1786, to Tennessee in 1801, and owned land in Christian Co. Ky. by 1807. In 1810 their household included a boy under 10 (possibly a grandson) and a male and female 16-26. Elizabeth was on the tax list in 1819.
Their children included:

David Kershner
b 30. Jan 1771

Baptized 9 July, Salem Reformed Church, Frederick Co. Md.

Rosina Kershner
b. 28 Oct. 1772

Baptized 28 Feb. 1773, Salem Church.

Catharina Kershner
b. 8 Feb. 1774

Baptized 8 May, Salem Church. Married . . . . Townsend, possibly in Tennessee. Named in David's will, 1816.

Christina Kershner
b. 8 Jan. 1776

Baptized 10 March, Salem Church. Married Adam Palmer, 1795, Augusta Co. Va.

Jacob Kershner
b. ca. 1781
d. Feb. 1840, Augusta Co. Va.

No baptismal record at Salem. Be it noted, however, that a Jacob Kershner, b. 18 Oct. 1781, is listed under Martin Kershner (Jr.) and Elisabetha, yet it is a well-documented fact that they had only one son, Andrew, and eight daughters. Martin and David both had wives named Elisabetha: possibly the pastor put down the wrong brother's name as father. Jacob was under 21 when he married, with the signed permission of his father, David, Peggy Gabbert in Augusta Co. Va., 15 April 1801.

Jonas Kershner
b. 9 May 1783

Baptized 8 June, Salem Church. In Cumberland Co. Ky. (where David owned land) the 1810 census lists four sons under 10 and an additional male age 16-26.

Leonard Kershner
b. ca. 1787?

Also in Cumberland Co. Ky. where he listed four sons and a daughter under 10, and one slave.

Elizabeth Kershner

married . . . . Brown, was named in David's will, 1816.

Margaret Kershner

married . . . . Crow, was named in David's will, 1816.

Polly Kershner
b. ca. 1793?

married Job Fletcher, 22 Dec. 1818, Christian Co. Ky. She was named in David's will, 1816: he was a witness.

Others?

Permission Granted to copy - For Mrs. Shingleton

From Nadine & Harold Arnold

1129 Avant Ave.
San Antonio, Texas 78210
November 1, 1972

Dear friends - Stuart & Ruth Kershner
1414 Red Bud Trail, Austin, Texas 78746.

(Next year you will have to cover
(the migration trail-possibly
(Alsace or German-French border

Glad to hear from a KERSHNER descendant - and will more or less at random proceed to mention in more or less detail some of our findings concerning their contacts with the RIDENOUR FAMILY. If this is somewhat rambling in nature it is because we will write our thoughts as they occur to us without going back and rewriting the whole letter. We do not know just how much of Edna Rideneur's notes to you were taken from our letters to her.

We will try to explain some of the background of our Genealogical Research so that you will have a better basis for understanding our family, th t is the ancestors of only Mrs. Arnold. We started with one sheet of notes written by Mrs. Arnold's grandfather, Franklin Cunningham Wells of Kansas City, very brief and incomplete. As so often happens we waited until he, and even my parents were gone before we became really interested in research. Finally we drove more or less along the migration trail throu-h Illinois, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland in 1961, 1962, and 1964, stopping at numerous Court Houses, Libraries, etc., especially at Columbus and Newark, Ohio, WELLSBURG, Virginia (now WEST), Washington, Penn.(near the SETTLEMENT, MILL, INDIAN FORT, etc. built by our ALEXANDER WELLS), Maryland Hall of Records at Annapolis, the Library of the Maryland Historical and Maryland Genealogical Society of which we are members, also the Archives, Congressional Library and the D.A. R. Library in the D. of C. Sounds like we should know everything there is to locate, but we are sofry we still are far from satisfied genealogically. Might mention that on the latter trip we stopped at the Hagerstown Courthouse. We had a picture of the grave stone of Nathaniel and Barbara Markley Wells taken in Licking Co., Ohio by us. It showed that BARBARA was born in Hagerstown, Md., and died Nov. 23, 1875, aged 83. We know that Barbara Markley Wells had named one of her sons "Samuel Rideneur Wells" and another son had the middle initial of "R" (probably another RRideneur". We wondered why she was so proud of the family. In fact, my uncle who was living up to a year or so ago was also named SAMUEL RIDENOUR WELLS and another living cousin of mine has the name of "RIDENOUR" as his second name. Since the monument showed her born in Hagerstown, we searched the Washington County Records. Briefly we found the ESTATE SETTLEMENT PAPERS of DAVID RIDENOUR (widow SARAH) and accounted for by their son, SAMUEL RIDENOUR. One of these among whom the estate of DAVID RIDENOUR (d.1804) was SUSANNA RIDENOUR (already married) MARKLEY. The estate took a long time to settle - to 1810 and by that time SUSANNA AND HER HUSBAND, John Markley, had sold their interest in the estate to the brother, SAMUEL RIDENOUR, and they were found in the CENSUS of 1810 at WELLSBURG (formerly Charlestown) Virginia. There is practically no doubt, but that BARBARA MARKLEY WELLS was the daughter of John Markley and Susanna Rideneur Markley., and that she married our NATHANIEL WELLS, son of HENRY WELLS and grandson of ALEXANDER AND LEAH OWINGS WELLS. We base our claims on many facts of time, location, and etc. based on our many deeds, wills, local history, etc.

We received a MICROFILM from the Library of Congress - titled "Autobiography of Peter D. Rideneur with Genealogies of the Rideneur and Beatty Families (Kansas City, Hudson Press, 1908.)by Peter Darcuss Rideneur (Pages 263-296 cover the RIDENOUR FAMILY. Possibly some of theinformation sent you by Edna Rideeur may have originated from this GENEALOGY as we no doubt quoted from it in our letters to her. Quoting: "Now the NICHOLAS REITENAUER, the German immigrant who came from Rotterdam in 1739, in the ROBERT AND ALICE, and was naturalized September 3, of that year, is without doubt my great-great-great grandfather. Three years after landing in Philadelphia he turns up in Maryland, and, upon a certificate of survey dated Oct. 22, 1742, obtained a patent (registered at Annapolis among the land records, August 22, 1743.) for a hundred acres of land lying in what WAS PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY, AFTERWARD FREDERICK and still later WASHINGTON COUNTY."(SAME LOCATION * JUST CHANGING OF COUNTY LIMITS-HHA) REITENAUER'S XPOND, "This tract, as appears from the patent, is called 'NICHOLAS REITENAUER'S POND,' and is described as lying to the northeast of a spring or pond and about five miles to the south of Conococheague. Conococheague is a village six miles directly west of the present HAGERSTOWN, on a stream of the same name, which rises in Pennsylvania, and with many bends, flows south into the Potomac at Williamsport (six miles southwest of Hagerstown.)" Still quoting from the Genealogy:

"NICHOLAS REITENAUER, the immigrant, was born in 1695, and was 44 years old when he took the oath of allegiance at Philadelphia. His wife's maiden name was ROSINA KERSHNER. (We have seen from the deed, will, and church records that the KERSHNER family was connected with some branchs of the RIDENOUR family down through several generations. His wife and children came over in the ship with him. It is not clearly shown how many children he had; if he had any daughtters, no names are given. His eldest son and heir-at-law was named NICHOLAS, whom we will call NICHOLAS II to avoid confusion. The next son was HENRY; then MATHIAS, and then probably GEORGE AND PETER, as they, along

Mary Maywoods "Capt John Kershner"

with HENRY and MATHIAS, bought land in 1753, which adjoined NICHOLAS REITENAUER'S POND. His boys were not of sufficient age to have been personally required to take the oath of allegiance, when they landed at Philadelphia."

Still quoting from Peter D. Rideneurs Genealogy:

"HENRY, the second son, no doubt, left his farm in his old age and moved into town, as evidenced by his will, which follows:

"1781, 6/23 - HENRY RIDENOUR, SECR. 1781: 8/29. ....."

This is the WILL mentioning: "I also give, devise and bequeath unto my Sons HENRY and DAVID (Mrs. Arnold's ancestor), jointly, their heirs and assigns forever, all that tract of land lying in the county aforesaid, called 'RIDENOUR'S POND,' containing 240 A., they, the said HENRY and DAVID, paying to JOHN KERSHNER'S WIFE, MARY, the sum of 20 £ hard money in gold or silver after the decease of my wife, which said sum of 20 lbs, I give and bequeath to MARY KERSHNER."

We, too, have wondered just what circumstances led Henry Rideneur to remember Mary Kershner in his will. If the P.D. R. Genealogy is correct, of course, then Henrys' mother was in fact ROSINA KERSHNER RIDENOUR, and possibly Mary Kershner was a WIDOW at the time and ~~possibly Henry's mother's sister~~, and he would have wanted to help for that reason? Also, there is the possibility that Henry himself had also married a KERSHNER in which event he would have been doubly responsible for Mary Kershner's welfare. From the WILL we see that Henry's wife was named EVE RIDENOUR .

no, he died 1822

The WILL reads: "I give and bequeath unto beloved wife EVE during her natural life, the brick house on lot No. 10 in ELIZABETH TOWN (Hagerstown) and wherein we now dwell, and all that part of said lot and cellar under the largest brick house which is now rented to Abraham Leighter. Also 1 cow and 1 bed and furniture, which is now used by me and my said wife."

"I also give, devise and bequeath unto my sons, MARTIN and JOHN, and my daughter, ELIZABETH WOOLFORD, a joint and equal estate in the houses and lot NO. 10, Elizabethtown aforesaid, ~~thxx~~ to them and their heirs forever."

Edna Rideneur kindly mailed us a newspaper clipping from the Hagerstown Newspaper showing the picture of these two brick buildings facing on North Potomac St., to be torn down for a Municipal Parking Lot - a couple of years ago, and it shows "Bells Tavern", etc. Accompanying article in paper reads: "Bells'sTavern, 18 No. Potomac St., is one of the oldest buildings in Hagerstown, according to Miss Edna Rideneur, of San Mar Road. She said her ancestor, HENRY RIDENOUR, bought the property from Jonathan Hager when Hager first laid out the town. He WILLED it to his children in 1781, she said. It was one of the first brick structures in the city limits, she said, and was called RIDENOUR'S TAVERN for many years." We have page after page of the inventory of DAVID RIDENOUR'S ESTATE back in 1804 showing an interesting stock of the merchandise of a General Store, including every kind of cloth, clothing, shawls, handkerchiefs, ribbons, and almost every imaginable supply for the household and personal use. The inventory included an enormous list including many Feather Beds, Bedsteads, Quilts, Sheets, Bolsters, Windsor chairs, tables, silver spoons, wine glasses, a FAMILY GERMAN BIBLE valued at $5.00, a CLOCK valued at $50.00, a negro man named Bob $200.00 and Negro Girl named "Nan" valued at $250.00. There was also a large Inventory of a TANNERY Business, mostly covering hides in various vats and stages of tanning. We would like to have that old "Clock", also the similar clock as shown in the Inventory of our ALEXANDER WELLS' WILL back in 1814.

You mention that your Anna, after death of her husband, Martin Kershner, had received two additional patents, "WIDOW'S LAST SHIFT" and "One Shift More." We have, of course, the original Reitenauer's Pond Patent, and also that covering the combination "HENRY'S LAST SHIFT and NICHOLAS RIDENOURS POND, for a total of 502 1/2 Acres of Land after including some VACANCY. This was dated 7/30/1770. Part of the description of location of this land reads: "We do therefore hereby grant and confirm unto him the said HENRY RIDENOUR THE aforesaid Tract or parcel of Land now resurveyed with the Vacancy added, reduced into an entire tract and now called "Henry's Last Shift and Nicholas Rideneurer's Pond; beginning for the out lines of the whole at the end of one hundred and forty three perches and one fourth of a perch on the third line of a tract of land called THE WIDOWS LAST SHIFT now in the possession of MARTIN KASNOR and running thence South ....." This quite well proves that these Kershners evidently lived adjacent to the "Pond" property.

We have the RIDENOUR FAMILY LAND SETTLEMENT PAPERS * Liber C, folios 210-216, 1783, whereby Nicholas Rideneur of the one part and Mathias Rideneur (his brother) and Henry & David, sons of Henry Rideneur, Sr. clarify all deeds between them up to that date. Liber 5, folios 125-129-1773 - Henry Rideneur to Mathias Rideneur - part of Tract called The Resurvey on Henry's Last Shift and Nicholas Reidenauers Bond - 243 acres. Liber F, folio 480-482 DAVID RIDENOUR to MATIAS RIDENOUR - Tract called The Addition to Henry's Last Shift containing 25 1/4 acres dated Dec. 22, 1789. Mentions Sarah wife of David. Mentions apparent adjacent land titled "Hager's Delight".
Vol. F, folio 484-485, Agreement between Mathias, David, and Henry Rideneur relative to survey lines, Resurvey on Nicholas Rideneurs Pond and

Henry Rideneurs Last Shift..

Liber F - folio 482-484 - DAVID RIDENOUR to HENRY RIDENOUR - Tract called "THE PLEASANT GARDEN" it being part of the RESURVEY ON DAVID'S FIRST SHIFT - Dec. 22, 1789 - 360 pounds current money.
Liber F, folios 478-480 - DAVID AND SARAH RIDENOUR to Conrad Oster - Dec. 22, 1789 - 300 pounds current money - Tract of land called the Resurvey on Nicholas Ridenours Pond and Henry's Last Shift beginning for the outlines of the whole at a marked bounded stone standing at the end of the first line of a tract of land called THE WIDOWS LAST SHIFT?.??..... TO a stone standing at the end of the eighth line of a tract of land called THE AMENDMENT ON THE RESURVEY OF HAGERS DELIGHT....." 51 1/4 Acres.

I have copied these extracts from a few of the Patents and Deeds we have in our files in order to give you some idea of just where the land was. For a year or more up to August 1972 the Genealogical Society of the Latter Day Saints Church (we do not belong) conducted at the Down Town Library a wonderful source of genealogical information in as much as they provided any film from the files of the great collection at Salt Lake City, Utah. We checked the files of their sources for the various states in which we were interested and then ordered many Land Record Indexes, Church Records, Vital Records of Counties, etc. for quite a few of our families: The WELLS - OWINGS - RANDALL - STINCHCOMB - MARKLEY - RIDENOUR - HOLL (Hull) DAKIN - ELLIOTT - CUNNINGHAM - CHALMERS. We have been very fortunate in Mrs. Arnold's choice of Ancestors - Not that she was at all conscious of that fact when we started. Lots has been written in Maryland Archives, Local and County Histories - Revolutionary Records, etc. which handed us much "on a silver platter." The OWINGS had been prominent in Baltimore, Md. records so of course much was written. A certain Dr. Donnell Owings of the Univ. of Okla. had spent a great deal in having research made on the OWINGS even back to WALES, and at same time he was a genius himself at genealogy. He was very liberal with us in supplying us his proof sheets - but as to the bad luck - he was run down on the Campus several Christmases ago and killed. That ended our hopes of a ready made genealogy publication. Old Alexander Wells who had married Leah Owings in Balt. Co. Md. was quite prominent there and even more so when he opened up one of the earliest Ferry and Mills - and a settlement on old maps called "WELLS" in what was then Virginia, but was taken over by Pennsylvania when they ran the Mason-Dixon line.

They moved to far North Si in Aug Too far Now

By about 1795 he was getting fairly old so he moved to Charlestown, Va., now WELLSBURG, W. Va. on the Ohio River. His youngest son, Bezaleel Wells, (brother of our Henry WELLS) established Steubenville and Canton, Ohio, so that resulted in lots more being written about the family - even a long THESIS written by one historian in order to get his degree. As to the CHALMERS - they are Scotch - and we believe the immigrant ancestor to have been the JOHN CHALMERS who was captured after the battle of Preston in which the invading Stuart line king James was defeated by King George I. A boat load of these prisoners came over in the GOODSPEED LANDING in Annapolis, Md. in 1716/17. Then the family became SILVERSMITHS IN ANNAPOLIS and some one of the professors at the Md. Historical Society wrote a book on "Md. Silversmiths" and gave quite a bit of space on the CHALMERS FAMILY - The father John, and the sons John and James Chalmers (latter is mine beyond question). As if that is not enough, every complete coin book gives something about the first tokens made in America and used as coins - the CHALMERS TOKENS - made by melting down the pie shaped sections of Spanish Dollars then used, and the coining of the tokens for various number of shillings, etc. We saw some at the Maryland Historical Society Library. Wish we had a few, they sell for around four hundred dollars apiece now. The ELLIOTT FAMILY built the first log cabin on the square of Newark, Ohio, and Patrick Cunningham the second cabin in Granville, Licking Co., Ohio. So when old John Cunningham married Mary Elliott he was quite a County politician, holding various offices in Licking Co., - so some information came easy. Of course there are always questions to be answered, and the further back you get - only opens up new names to investigate. We have too been fortunate to locate some wonderful friends who have added to our knowledge of the details concerning several branches - and we really appreciated them and did what we could to reciprocate no matter how much typing it took to do it. As to the "plat and map project" of course we are interested, however, we do not want to burden Mr. Kershner with all our patents and deeds. He probably has his hands full with Kershoners. Let us hear from you further, Best wishes,

Nadine and Harold Arnold

Thanks for the address and information concerning Mary Kershner Maxwell - will try to figure out just what information concerning the Ridenour connection with the Kershners which we should send to her.

Of course we will be glad to learn of anything you may ascertain concerning any intermarriages between the Kershners and Ridenours. We will also watch for such. We wish now that we had devoted more time to the KERSHNER name while we were going through the L.D.S. Film files on the INDEX OF WASHINGTON COUNTY DEEDS? BUT WE HAD SO many different families to watch for in Maryland.

In addition to the Peter D. Ridenour Genealogy - there is another "Ridenour Collection" (134 pages of mimeographed matter) which we borrowed from Rev. V.C. Ridenour, 310 S. High St., Arcanum, Ohio(45304) It comprises a sort of mixture of the knowledge and opinions of various descendants of several Ridenour Immigrants. It is difficult to determine the degree of accuracy of the various opinions. These responsible for this collection were far from professional genealogists and, no doubt, were sincerely trying to preserve some of the record as they saw it - however much of it is probably not based on careful research. It consists of five parts which we have described as follows
Part I - Most of this historical matter was gathered from a booklet presented to the author of that portion by "Mr. Peter D. Ridenour of Kansas City, Missouri, under date of April 3, 1907."
Part II - Rev. Jacob R. Ridenour's Collection (of Middletown, Md.)
Part III - Collection pertaining to Jacob, Mathias and Lewis and their descendants.
Part IV - John Ridenour and Descendants.
Part V - Notes and Collections by Rev. John S. Wrightnour, Pastor, First Baptist Church, 411 South Main Ave., Scranton, Pa.
(All evidently assembled by Mr. E. V. Ridenour of LIMA, OHIO, in 1910)
At the time we borrowed this collection we copied only the portions which seemed to affect our line.
Possibly the following copied from PART 4 may confuse more than it enlightens, but I will copy it for you.
"I have now in my possession a genealogical data collected by Rev. Jno. S. WRIGHTNOUR, of Scranton, Pa. In this data he goes back to the NICHOLAS REITENOUR, the immigrant of 1739 referred to by Peter D. Ridenour. Rev. Wrightnour says he has learned that the family came from ALSACE. They were German Protestants of the Reformed theology, and were under the persecuting rule of France. NICHOLAS AND SUSAN REITENAUR lived at ROSENTHAL, ALSACE, and Nicholas was born about 1669. How many sons he had he did not know. But he had three sons known of: NICHOLAS, HENRY and MATHIAS. He also claims that NICHOLAS REITENAUER, Sr., entered 240 acres of land near Hagerstown, Md. in 17 and it was known as "Reitenaur's Pond.". NICHOLAS, Sr., had nephews that settled in Pennsylvania and later on a number of them came to Hagerstown, Md. A number of REITENOURS settled in Pennsylvania in early days and the immigrant the first of all. I have always entertained the thought that there were too many RIDENOURS in and around Hagerstown, Md. to come from one family.
"NICHOLAS and SUSAN REITENOUR, of Rosenthal, Alsace (now a part of Germany but seized in 1685 by Louis XIV) were, as before stated, both of the Reformed faith. At least two of his sons came to America in 1739."
(I interupt here to point out that from this date, it looks like (the author is saying that our NICHOLAS? the immigrant of 1739, had (a father and mother named NICHOLAS & SUSAN RIDENOUR - We admit (this is confusing. HHA)
Again quoting from the Part 4:
"One of these was Johnas (or John), who was born in 1690 and married Maria Catharine _____ in Rosenthal, in 1716. On coming to this county in 1739, aged 49 years, he settled at the Oley Hills in Berks County, Penna., not far from what is now Reading, Pa. He died in 1755....."

The above notes at least gives us (and possibly you) a place to start looking for the Ridenour and Kershner families.

Nicholas had been b. 1695 + 44 years = 1739 Date of Immig.

Maryland land records and what they tell us

1784 Assessments

Washington County, Maryland --- Salisbury Hundred pp 45, 46

Owner/Tract/Acres Wood/Meadow/Arable/Total Acres/Horses/Cattle/Total Value £		W	M	A	Ac	H	C	£
Jn° Kershner	Part of Resurvey on Contentment	70	8	80	178	7	13	413
George Kershner	Sr Part of Res^{Y} on Contentment	115	4	50	169	7	6	388
David Kershner	Pt of Res^{y} on Amendm^{t} and Trouble with Contentm^{t}	347	6	80	433	8	9	521
George Kershner Jr	do	386		47	433	3	9	424
Jon^{a} Kershner	Sundry Tracts	175	8	70	253	3	12	487
Jacob Kershner	P^{t} Cong^{t} or Hazerd and P^{t} Maidens Choice	293	23	96	402	7	15	655
Philip Kershner	P^{t} 1st Snow, P^{t} Hagers Delight & Res^{Y} on Amendm^{t}	114	7	50	171	6	10	389
Hannah Kershner						1	5	10
Conrad Kershner						3	2	19
Martin Kersner	Sundry Tracts	473	12	107	620	11	10	583
do	Mountain of Wales	151						10

(This is not all the information included. Not copied were land valuations, improvement valuations, or other property or valuations)

Jacob Kershner had a male servant above 45 and a child servant under 8, and two stills, the servants valued at £ 7.

Martin Kershner had two mills and two stills, both valued at £ 100.

Md. Hall of Records

Kershner estate documents

Prince George's County
George Kersner Inventory r 37,164 1748
o box 15, fldr 49
John George Kersner Bond o box 13, fldr 75
" Testamentary Papers, Inventory and Account
o box 50, fldr 10 1750 (Frederick County)

Frederick County
Martin Kershner Will o box 4, fldr 30 1769
r 37, 576
r A, 351

Washington County

Benjamin Kershner	1826	Elizabeth Kershner, ad. acct.	7,447	inv. G, 29,579
Christina Kershner	1826	Isaac Kershner, ex. will C,305	ac. 8,48	G, 288,457
Daniel Kershner	1829	David Wiles, ad.	7,99,247	H,170
Elias Kershner	1804	Anthony Howard, ad.	2, 536	C,101
George Kershner Jr.	1801	Henry Kershner, Ad.		B,378
George Kershner	1804	Martin Kershner, ad.	2,381;3,56	C,80
George Kershner	1838	James Dorrance, ex. will D,290	11,549,577 12,150,427	K,586
Hannah Kershner	1800	Jonathan & Jacob Kershner,ad.		
Jacob Kershner	--	John & H. Kershner, ad.	1,291 Accts, 1791	A,369,419
Jacob Kershner	1815	Jacob Kershner, ex. will B,269	5,138;7,50	
Jonathan Kershner	1816	George Zachariah, ad.	5,11	
John Kershner	1822	Jacob Kershner, ex. will C,232	9,30,140,322 10,50	
Joseph Kershner	1823	David Newcomer, ad.	7,102,247	F,507
Philip Kershner	1836	DanielKershner, ex. will D,215	11,209,439 16,76	K,360
Peter Kershner	1847	Daniel Kershner	15,375	

o = original
r = recorded

Land

1972.

This is a preface to "Land Records" which I sent you.
Dr. Kershner lives in Norristown Pa, age 84, still active, is a descendant of Conrad Kershner of Berks Co Pa, to Philadelphia 1733.

For our dear friends and cousins, Dr. A. C. Kershner and Mr. Edward Kershner,
From Stuart C. Kershner and Ruth Bounds Kershner, 10 September, 1972

Mr. Edward is a descendant of Jacob Kershner b 1751 of Hagerstown, is about the same age + also lives in Norristown Pa.

Enclosed are some notes and copies of documents related to our research to date on the Kershner family.

Every Kershner researcher has been generous in sharing information with us. You have been especially generous, sharing family records and much data from Maryland state records and those of Washingto County.

So we have chosen areas of study in which you apparently have not worked: land records of the Conococheague area of Western Maryland as recorded in state archives, and land records of Prince Georges County which included the area until 1748, and of Frederick County which included it 1748 to 1776.

We know little of the Pennsylvania records, even less of the New York records, and not really much about the family past the first generation born in America. Perhaps the land records will help fill the gap before the available church records which begin about 1770.

There were three principal questions. How was Revolutionary Captain John Kershner related to the family on the Conococheague? Exactly where were the Kershner lands, and Martin Kirshner Sen^{r}'s mill? How was Phillip Kershner, father of Jacob born 1751, related to the others?

We began in the archives of the Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City, after visiting Mary Kershner Maxwell in Colorado Springs, by reading microfilms of Frederick County land records prior to 1776. There were no indexes, but a few hours reading turned up two really fascinating documents. In 1773, Martin Kershner and Jonathan Hager, executors to the estate of Martin Kershner Sen^{r} Dec^{d}, made deeds to John Kershner, the brother of George (T: 333-336) and to George Kershner, the brother of John (T: 188-192). These deeds were identical except for the surveyors' calls, were for almost the same acreages, and divided the waters of a spring equally between them.

In order to identify "John the brother of George Kershner" we had to sort out the George Kershners of the period. Mr. Raymond Kershner's excellent family chart showed two.

I am myself unable to understand the family relationships without making estimates of the ages of its members, and considering the effect of the large families common at the time. Women--and sometimes men--married young, and it was not at all unusual for a woman to have a 30-year child-bearing period, to age 45 or even 48, if she lived that long.

Here you should read through the draft of our report to Mary Maxwell, dated February, 1972, on the first land records project.

Next, read through the whole of Martin Kirshner Sen^{r}'s 1769 will. It is packed with information.

After that are several pages of guesswork. Those of you who are more familiar with the later generations and records of other states will, we hope, contribute documentation and guesswork of their own so together we can arrive at the most accurate picture possible.

Both of these gentlemen know a great deal about the family history

KERSHNER

Guesswork on ages and Relationships... 10 September, 1972 RHK

This is to follow the land records.

During the past summer, we have collected much more data on land patents and deeds during our visit to Maryland. Hilda Cushwa has helped enthusiastically, and Mr. Edward Kershner's contribution of the Brightwell's Choice patent opened up a whole new field for investigation. Bette Kershner located the Resurvey on Contentment, which gratifyingly showed SGK's platting to be very accurate. During the next fall and winter, we hope to extend our platting activities and perhaps to make some further contribution.

In the meanwhile, we have worked out some possible dates, and hope everyone will again contribute by making suggestions and corrections. The following is not to be considered final, and much of it really cannot be proved.

First, I suspect that Anna Kersner, widow of Johan Georg Kirschner/George Kersner, who died in 1748, (Maryland Inventories, 37: 164-168) was still alive in 1768 and possibly in 1771 when her name was still on the debt list now in the Maryland Hall of Records. Although some of Martin Kirshner Sen^{r}'s land was sold by his executors in 1771, the property belonging to his parents, which descended to him by right of primogeniture since they died intestate, was not divided until 1773. Anna Kersner not only owned two pieces of this property in her own name, but she had a dower right of one-third of Johan Georg's real estate. She certainly was alive in 1759 when she received the patent for One Shift More. I estimate that she was born about 1700-1703, died ca. 1768-1771.

Mr. Raymond Kershner's chart, as copied for Mary Maxwell by Mr. Daniel Kershner, shows Martin Kershner, son of Johan Georg and Anna, born 1685. Mary is of the opinion that this date was inadvertantly placed in the wrong column, possibly even when the chart was reconstructed from memory by Mr. Raymond after his research papers were stolen. She thinks this date, 1685, belongs instead to Johan Georg, and I agree with her. I do not know the source of this date, but it seems logical. This would give Johan Georg Kirschner, the immigrant, dates of 1685-1748, a goodly life span for that period.

Martin Kirshner Sen^{r}, the oldest son, was under 16 in 1731, hence born after 1715. I suggest a date of about 1720 for his birth, since there were only three children living (or present) in the 1731 list. He died in December, 1769, (Frederick Co. Md. Wills 37: 576-578) sick, and leaving much unfinished business and at least one pre-teen child. His oldest son was 27. I know nothing of his wife, Margaretha, except the detailed arrangements he made for her support.

Elisabetha, his sister, and her husband, Jonathan Hager, were said by Mr. Raymond Kershner to have had, about 1738, a child who was "drowned in a moat". A look at the restored Hager house, with its gushing spring running in a channel through the cellar and yard, makes that seem possible. However, Mary Vernon Mish, a descendant of Jonathan Hager, quotes from Hager's journal a statement that he and Elisabetha were married in 1740. I am inclined to think Elisabetha was the second of the three on the ship Samuel's list in 1731. She died in 1765.

The third immigrant, Barbary, is a shadowy figure to me. Though I strongly agree with Mrs. Mish that Barbary married a Reitnaur, I don't know which one. Hinrich Reitnauer was a witness to Martin Sen^{r}'s will. Peter Reitnawer patented land adjacent in 1753. George Reitnawer, whose daughters were willed land by Martin Sen^{r}, seems the best bet. I would assume she died before 1769.

The land records research convinces me that Johan Georg Kirschner and Anna his wife had at least additional sons John Kershner and George Kershner ("George Sr." in 1773 and 1784). Other things besides land records indicate this. In signing his name as a witness to the will of Martin Kirshner Sen^{r} in 1769, Johannes Kirshner used German script. The John identified as Captain John Kershner also used German script when he signed his own will in 1811, which suggests to me that he was of the older generation and the same man. Although Mr. Raymond Kershner thought Captain John's father was also named John, I strongly believe these two men to be the same man, for the following reasons:

In 1778, 1784, and 1790, there were lists made of all males in the Conococheague area. None of these has more than one John Kershner, and this is the only place in Maryland there are any Kershners. The John Kershner on the 1784 Assessment I identify as a son of Johan Gorg and Anna, the John who divided up their land with his brother George. (An intriguing possibility is that they might have been twins, each with one of his father's names. Treating them exactly alike is then very logical.) Mary Kershner Maxwell identifies as Captain John Kershner the one on the 1778 Oath of Allegiance list and the one on the 1790 census list, and says he had his first child in 1769. Captain John also had a beloved daughter, Mary Tice. In 1800, (Wash. Co. Md. Deeds M-372) John Kershner conveyed to Henry Tice 8¼ acres (sounds like a dwelling and outbuildings) "part of Contentment resurveyed for him in 1788". The only John Kershner who acquired part of Contentment prior to 1788 was John the brother of George in 1773. There is no will or administration for a John Kershner in either Frederick or Washington County, and at this period Maryland required that records of all estates be filed at Annapolis as well as in the counties. A younger John could acquire land from an older John only by inheritance or deed, and this just did not happen. I have been unable to find any inconsistency in identifying the 1769-1790 records of John Kershner as those of one single individual. Even if he were as young as 21 at marriage, he could have been born in 1747, within the lifetime of Johan Gorg and the child-bearing years of Anna. I suggest that John Kershner was born about 1740-1744. He made his will in 1811, but died 1822.

George the brother of John does not seem to me to be older than John. However, I think I base this impression on the fact that John's barn is mentioned in the 1773 deeds, and none is mentioned for George. I do not know when he was married, but I do know that the portion allotted to him included the site of Anna's house and it is possible that he lived there. I do believe we have sorted out George Kershner Sr.—the brother of Martin Kirshner Sen^{r}—and George Kershner Jr.—the son of Martin Kirshner Sen^{r} and doubtless namesake of that brother.

Mr. Raymond Kershner lists, as a son of Johan Gorg and Anna, a George Kershner who had a wife Mary. Martin Sen^{r}'s son George also had a wife Mary: according to Mr. Douglas Dutro Woodard of Salt Lake City, a descendant, he married Mary Flenner (Wash. Co. Md. Deeds F:467), and some of their children are found in Washington Co. Church Records. This George and wife Mary Flenner went with the Flenners to Ohio, 1802-1804, and there they both died in an epidemic (The Flenner Family, Dr. Ernest O. May, 1970.) Therefore there are no estate records for them in Maryland. It seems to me that some of the children of this younger George and Mary appear on Mr. Raymond's list of the older George and Mary. I am not familiar enough with the church and family records to be sure.

The projected land record work may help to sort out the Jacob Kershners, but we already have some clues that I will pass on for your consideration.

KERSHNER

The cryptic reference in Martin Kirshner Sen^r's will to disinheriting any child who marries into Conrod Miller's family seems to dovetail with records of a Jacob Kershner who married Hannah, daughter of Conrod Miller. Mary Kershner Maxwell and Washington Co. genealogist Mrs. P. D. Shingleton both identify this Jacob as a son of Martin Sen^r, who pointedly omitted any Jacob from his enumeration of his first, second and third sons. We do not know the source of this enmity toward Conrod Miller, who was a fellow passenger on the ship Samuel, 1731. The children of Jacob Kershner and Hannah, Daughter of Conrod Miller, were Jonathan, the eldest son, Jacob Jr., and Susannah Volgamot. A granddaughter was Hannah Volgamot, under 18 when Hannah Kershner wrote her will in 1789 (Wash. Co. Wills A-449, proved 1801). Jacob apparently died much younger. In 1787, a deed (E: 894-896) relates that Jacob Kershner Sen^r dying intestate the said Estate devolved on the aforesaid Jonathan Kershner...son and heir at law...and Hannah the wife and Relict of the aforesaid Jacob Kershner Dec^d having a right of Dower in the said Land... sold all their respective rights to...the said Jacob Kershner Jr...consideration ₤ 350...a tract called Black Oak Levil...near the great Road that leads from Pennsylvania to the Mouth of Conococheague...100 acres. (Note here that the eldest son inherited all the land, subject only to the widow's dower right, and was legally entitled to sell it, and did sell it, with her consent.)

So both Jonathan and Jacob must have been of legal age in 1787, hence born before 1766. Hannah appears in the 1784 Assessment at the owner of one horse and five black cattle valued at ₤ 10. Jon^a Kershner owns 175 acres of Sundry Tracts--not a very helpful description. But since Hannah is listed, her husband is dead, and Jonathan has inherited.

The only Jacob Kershner listed in the 1784 Assessments may not then be this Jacob Jr., second son of Jacob Kershner and Hannah Miller, since he did not acquire--buy--his father's land from his brother Jonathan until 1787. It is my guess that Jacob Jr. is not listed even as the owner of a horse because he was under 21 at that time. If correct, this would place Jacob Jr's birth date between 1764 and 1767, and Johathan's at least a couple of years earlier. This is consistent with the will of Martin Kirshner Sen^r who did not include the already-married Jacob with his other sons in 1769.

There is only one Jacob Kershner in the 1784 Assessment. I now read his entry "p^t Conq^t or Hasard and P^t Maidens Choice", 203 acres valued at ₤ 355. He was also charged with one male servant, seven horses, 15 Black Cattle, and two Stills valued at ₤ 7, for a total taxable valuation of ₤ 389. Altogether, he was one of the more prosperous citizens. Doubtless it is also he on the 1778 list of signers of the Oaths of Allegiance, with John and George Kershner on John Collar's list.

Certainly Jacob Kershner, b.1751, d. 1815, according to records relayed by Mary Maxwell,--son of Phillip--is said to have lived all his life in the Conococheague area, and would have arrived at legal age in 1772. I am now of the opinion that it is this Jacob, b. 1751, who owns, in 1784, part of Conquest or Hasard and Part of Maiden's Choice. Conquest is certainly a familiar name! We visited the present-day Conquest, which Mary Maxwell says belonged to the Phillip Kershner family. S. G. K. says today's Conquest buildings are very near the site of the eastern end of "Kershner's Ford", and that the original road to the ford was probably on the road, now narrow and unpaved, down the hill from Route 40 toward the present farmhouse and barn. Hazzard is also a familiar name, mentioned over and over as a boundary point to one of the Kershner or Hager properties. We have the patents, with metes and bounds,

for two properties called Hazzard, and work is to be done on them. The present owners of Conquest Farm have, I understand, done some work on its deeds, and I hope to be in touch with them.

We do have an inconsistency here, however. The statement in Williams' History of Washington Co. Maryland, on which I base my information about Jacob Kershner and his father Phillip, says that Phillip took up land in Clear Spring District on the Conococheague. The Clear Spring area is on the western side: Conquest today is on the eastern side of Conococheague Creek. Mary Maxwell relayed us a copy of a patent to Brightwell's Choice obtained by Mr. Edward Kershner—and we do thank you!—and it is my understanding that this is said to be the original Conquest. Reading the patent disclosed that the land is described as on the west side of Conococheague, which confirms the Clear Spring location. However, reading it also disclosed that the patent is dated 1763 (not 1730 or 1740) and that it was issued to Jonathan Hager, not Phillip or Jacob. Though it arrived in time for us to search Annapolis, Frederick, and Hagerstown records, we have been unable to locate any deed transferring Brightwell's Choice or Conquest to Phillip, Jacob, or anyone else. Neither is there any patent issued to Phillip or Jacob Kershner.

Brightwell's Choice may be concealed in a resurvey somewhere. These were apparently made to correct errors in the original surveys, to consolidate parts of variously named tracts, to add vacancies or additional contiguous land, to settle title and boundary disputes, or to revise the terms of the contract. Resurveys were sometimes given completely new names, which appear only in the body of a deed, and are not indexed. We checked pages of resurveys indexed only under the letter R for resurveys!

We hope that our platting project will clarify some of these. At the present time, I am inclined to think that Johan Corg and Anna's land lay between Hagerstown and the Conococheague, perhaps near present Route 40. I think Martin Senr was living at a different location at the time of his death in 1769. It may be that Jacob's Conquest and other properties included the ford, on both sides of the Conococheague, and that his tavern was very conveniently located on the western side to serve travelers on this route. This is near the area that Hilda Cushwa pointed out to us as the original site of St. Paul's Church and of the blockhouse of the very early days. We all walked down to this ford this summer, down a still-existing land through two well-defined rows of trees to the creek.

I am not yet in a position to speculate on Phillip's dates or relationship because I have not studied family traditions and records others have on him, or done any Pennsylvania research.

It would be very helpful to know if there are records of other children of Phillip besides Jacob b. 1751. Does the family think Phillip died in Maryland? There are no administration records for him. If he is thought to be the Phillip with wife Christina whose children were baptized at Salem Church 1788-1800, he must have had a younger wife in 1751. Mr. Raymond Kershner noted, I think, though I do not have his chart before me, that this Phillip with wife Christina was thought to be a brother to Captain John. This is possible if Phillip was born shortly after the arrival of Johan Corg and Anna in 1731, and if he was no older than 20 when Jacob was born in 1751, or if he came over on a different ship. than the Samuel.

I do not believe it is possible that Phillip was a son older than Martin Senr. If Phillip came to the Conococheague by 1740 and there had son Jacob born 1751, he must have been alive and present at the time of Johan Corg's.

Note the Phil[illegible] in 1784 Assessment with part of First Show (Reitnauer) ~~Backford~~ Delight Hagers (Hagen) and Resurvey on Amend. (same as David + Geo. Jr.)

death in 1748. Yet Martin Sen^{r} inherited ALL the real property of his parents, which at that time, by law, devolved upon the oldest son: moreover, Martin Sen^{r} and Jonathan Hager, as the two nearest relations, signed the inventory. Yet though Jacob was undoubtedly related to the other Kershners, the ONLY record I have found which indicates the existence of a father Phillip is Williams' History.

Lines of inquiry should include Pennsylvania records, which we have not worked with. Mr. Edward's notes say "a Phillip Kershner went to Maryland". Mr. George Kershner of Berks Co. quotes Knittles Early Palatine Emigration, listing "Phillip Kersner, wife, and three children". We would like copies of these records, especially the dates and places. Are there others as well?

Has anyone done deed records of Bucks Co. Pa.? Martin Sen^{r} stated in his will of 1769 that he owned land there. Or records of Lancaster Co. Pa. where Phillip is said to have come from?

We must take into account the possibility that the 1730-1740 date of Kershner settlement on the Conococheague refers to the oldest-known, Johan Corg and Anna Kirschner, who were documented land-owners in 1739.

How is Conrath Kershner of the Conococheague settlements related? He and wife Hanna had a daughter Rosina baptized in 1771. Many little Rosinas were named for Rosina Heister, childless only daughter of Elizabeth Kershner Hager, but this Rosina's sponsor was Elisabetha Kershner, identified as Elisabetha (Schnably), first wife of Martin Kershner Jun^{r}. Conrath and Hanna had another daughter in 1776, sponsors Johannes Kirshner and Maria (Captain John and his wife.) Conrad's name appeared on the Oaths of Allegiance list 1778, and in the 1784 Assessment as the owner of three horses and two cows, no land. No deeds, patents, wills, or administrations are listed for him. No Conrad Kershner was in the 1790 census of Maryland. I'd guess he moved.

It should be mentioned here that the earliest baptismal records begin in 1770, when the Rev. Jacob Weimar came to take over the duties of three Lutheran and Reformed churches, Salem, north of Route 40; St. Paul's at Clear Spring, and Zion which was and is in Hagerstown. Many families brought older children to be baptized, as he was the first permanent pastor. This good pastor left us no marriage records, but apparently urged his parishioners to conform to church sacraments. Whether our David Kershner, "second son" of Martin Sen^{r}, was married by an authority not acceptable to Pastor Weimar, or was not married at all, between the time that he and Elisabetha Ollinger "unmarried" had their son David, born 30 Jan. 1771, and their daughter Rosina, b. 28 Oct. 1772, they seem to have satisfied the good pastor and are listed as married.

But Martin Kirshner Sen^{r}'s children and grandchildren are another story.

...To be continued

18 Sept 1972

For Mr Shingleton -

Dr Ammon Kershner + Mr. Edward Kershner of Norristown, Pa., are very interested in these Kershner records. Mr. Edward's health is none too good, which has led me to go ahead and get this material ready to send him even tho it's by no means complete.

Please add this copy to your Kershner materials anyhow, for what ever it's worth.

I'm on my last grandbaby for 1972! Do hope your work is progressing well and you're having lots of fun.

Sincerely

Ruth Kershner

Stuart & Ruth Kershner
Airstream 22793
1414 Red Bud Trail
Austin, Texas 78746

For Mrs. Shmigleton
To Keep if you wish

For: Mary Kershner Maxwell
From: Stuart C. & Ruth B. Kershner
Date: February 1972

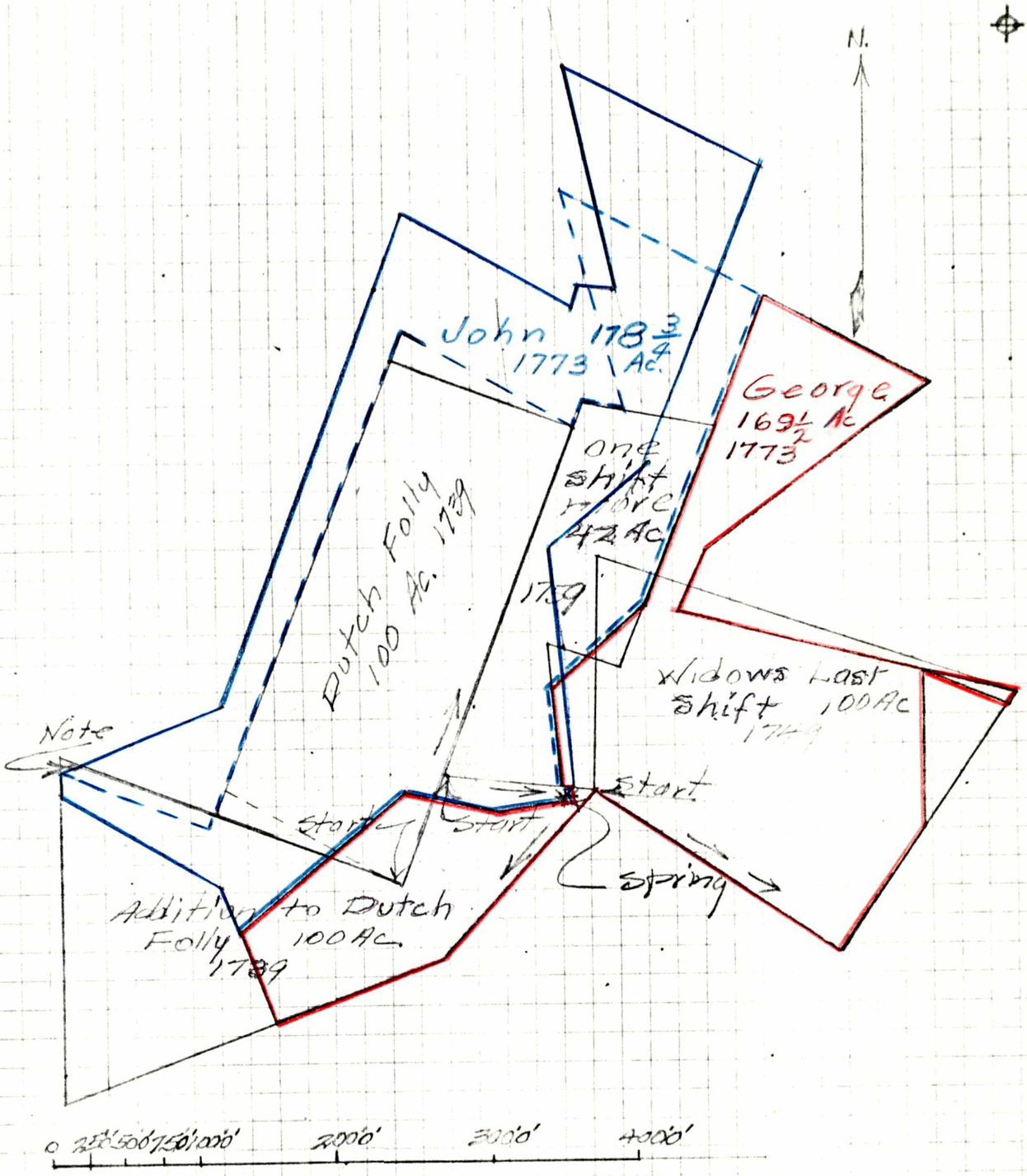
Draft

MARYLAND LAND RECORDS AND WHAT THEY TELL US

First, let Mr. George Kershner, family historian, late of Berks Co. Pennsylvania, speak:

The differences in the spelling of the name should be ignored for two reasons. In the first place, men often spelled their own names with a different spelling on different occasions, or a clerk spelled the name as he heard it pronounced. Particularly was this the case when the early Germans came to this country, for the English clerks spelled their names phonetically. The other reason is, the paper and ink have faded, fine strokes of the pen have worn away as the pages rubbed against each other in use, and clerks, expert as they were in reading old documents, occasionally erred in interpreting the handwriting.

To Mr. Kershner's suggestion, we would add one: the old spellings give us clues as to the pronunciation of the name in various times and places. Surprising differences remain today. So try it, you'll like it!



Note: Correcting an apparent clerical error at this point would permit a common boundry between John's and George's Land.

KERSHNER LAND IN CONOCOCHEIGE MANOR MARYLAND 1739 TO 1773

S.G.K. 1972

THE STATE OF TEXAS
State Board of Registration for
Professional Engineers

THIS CERTIFIES THAT THE ENGINEER WHOSE NAME APPEARS ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS CARD, BEING THE HOLDER OF A CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION, WITH RENEWAL FEE PAID,

IS ENTITLED TO PRACTICE AS A REGISTERED

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1972

S. G. Kershner D C Klein P.E.

SIGNATURE OF REGISTRANT SECRETARY

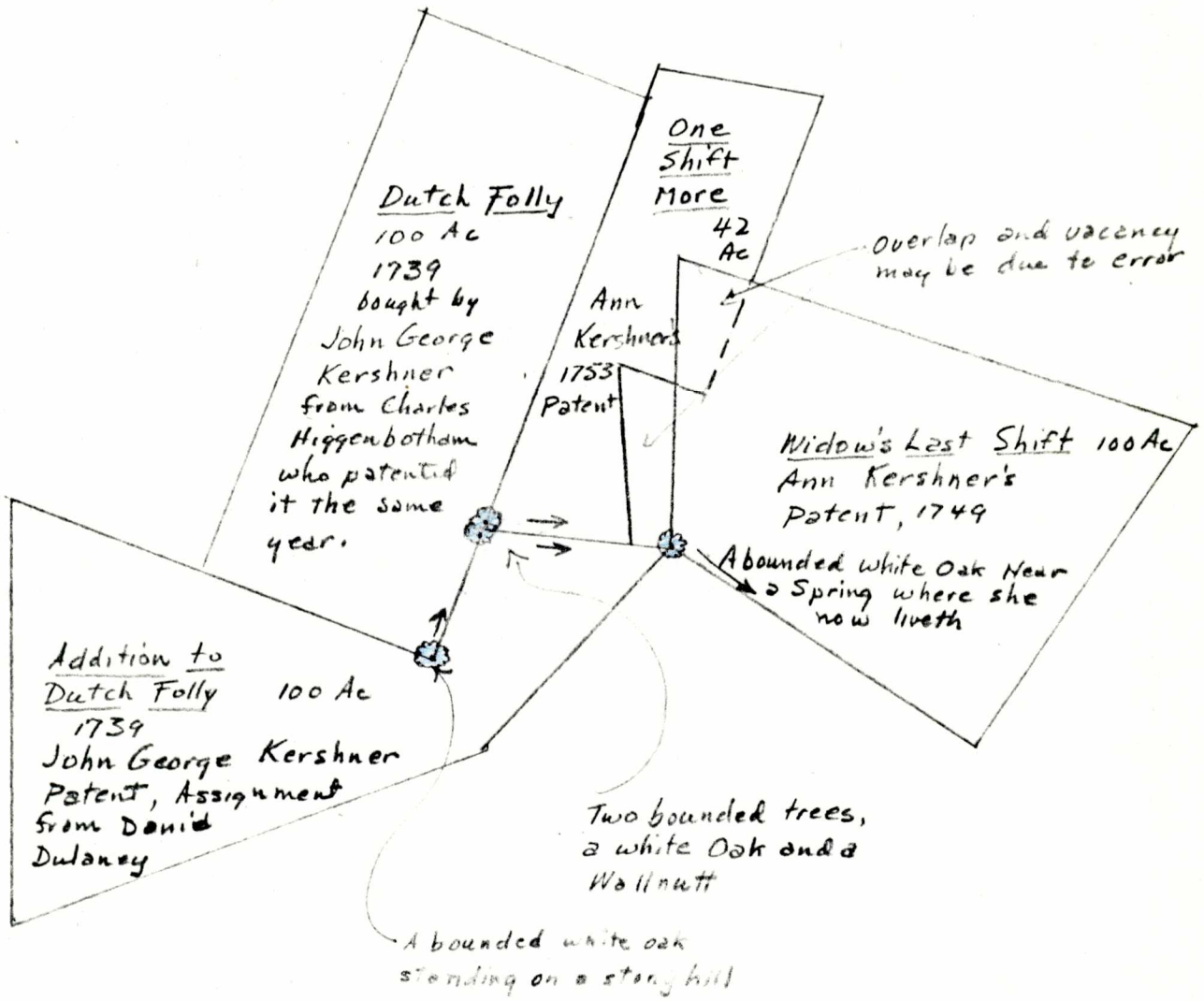
Note: This is just a joke; I put it on for his brother, Stephen W. Kershner, also an engineer. As S.G.K. says, NOT a professional surveyor!

R.B.K.

Please do not reproduce this portion.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

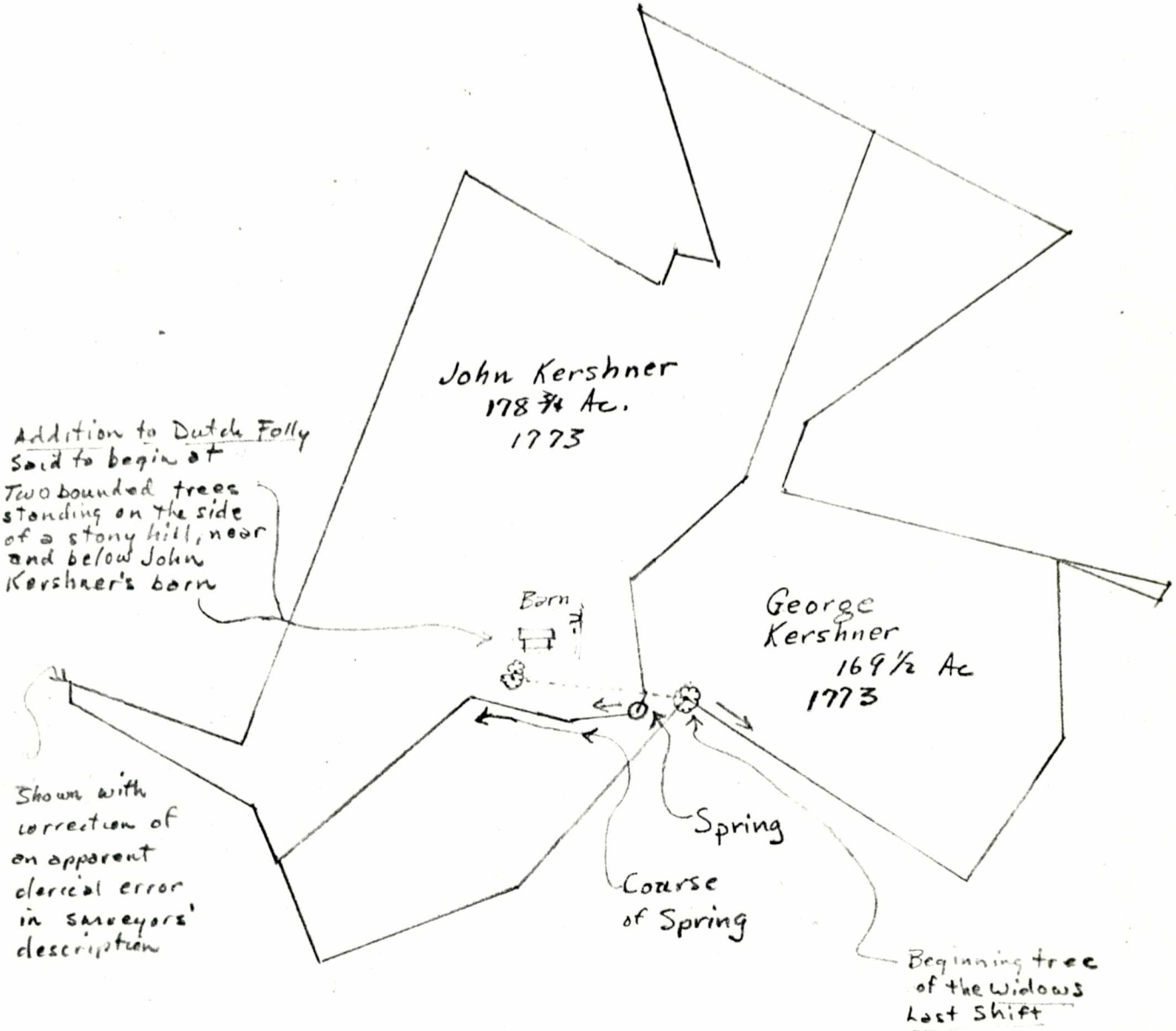
Between Little Antietam and Conococheague Creeks



This is sketched from a plat made by Stuart G. Kershner from surveyors' descriptions found in copies of the original patents, obtained from the Maryland Hall of Records in 1971 and 1972.

FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND, 1773

Part of a Resurvey on Dutch Folly the Addition to Dutch Folly the Widows Last Shift and One Shift More said resurvey called Contentment



This is sketched from a plat made by Stuart G. Kershner from surveyors' descriptions found in two deeds made the same day, to John Kershner, the brother of George, and George Kershner, the brother of John, by Martin Kershner and Jonathan Hager, executors to the will of Martin Kershner Sr., dated 1768. Copies of these documents were obtained from the Maryland Hall of Records in 1971 and 1972.

Maryland Land Records and What they tell us

6 June, 1739

Prince George's County, Province of Maryland

A very early survey is entered for 100 acres of Vacant Partly Cultivated back lands in the borders of the province, lying between little Andeadum and Connegocheige Creek. In the colonial patent issued to Capt. Charles Higgenbottom, the survey recites the boundaries of this tract, called the Dutch Folly, Beginning at a bounded White Oak Standing on a Stony Hill about three Miles from a Place called Salsbury's Plain and below the plantation of George Castiner...

running North 21 degrees East [approximately North-Northeast] 200 perches [perch = rod = 16½ feet] up by the side of the plantation

then North 61 degrees West [approximately West-Northwest] 80 perches [1320 feet]... etc.

the exact quantity of one hundred Acres...

So, the southeast corner of the Dutch Folly was adjacent to, and its Beginning Tree, the bounded White Oak, was below, the plantation of George Castiner. (See plat) A rectangular tract 80 x 200 perches contains exactly 100 acres. As copied into the deed book, the survey mentions one angle of 61 degrees: this angle should be 69 degrees in order to make the tract rectangular and contain 100 acres, so an error in copying is suspected.

Ref: Patents: Liber E I # 6 : Folio 148

O'Rourke's General Engineering Handbook

For Mrs. Shingleton---SGK/RBK Mar 1972 KERSHNER

Re: Biography of Edward Kershner, M.D., in History of Washington Co Md, Williams

In 1970, we visited Mr. Edward Kerschner, then about 85, in Norristown, Pa. His father was the Rev. Jacob Brewer Kershner, the professor at Mercersburg College mentioned in the above biography.

Mr. Edward gave us a copy of the typed family history he and his sister had compiled, which is largely based on the above History of Washington Co. Md. They had, however, done some research at Reading, Pa., which led them to the belief that Johan Kirschner, who he said migrated to America in 1732, had two sons, Conrad and Philip. They found a reference at Reading saying "Philip went to Maryland" and believe this to be the Philip mentioned in the history of Washington Co. He is said to have left the Tulpehocken area near Reading and migrated to the then Frederick Co. about 1740 and married Anna Barbara Brewer. Mr. Edward says immigrant Kershners, among them a Martin, were reported to have been at Livingstone Manor, N. Y. 1709-1710, some of whom are said to have migrated to the Tulpehocken area and later to Maryland.

Mr. Edward Kerschner's great grandfather, Jacob Kershner, who is buried at St. Paul's Church, Clearspring, Md., was born in 1751 and died 1815, according to the stone. Capt. Edward Kershner, M.D., the subject of the above biography, was an uncle to Mr. Edward. Capt. Kershner's photograph bears a strong resemblance to the late John Stuart Kershner, Stuart G. Kershner's father.

We have not yet found records of any Philip Kershner owning land in Maryland until the 1783 Assessment, when one owned parts of (Reitnauer's) First Snow, Hagers Delight, and Resurvey on Amendment (to Contentment?). About this time a Philip Kershner and wife Christina were baptising children at Salem Church--1788, 1791, 1793, 1795, 1798, 1800: the 1790 census showed a Philip with 5 males under 16 and apparently 2 daughters. This seems a younger man than a Philip whose son Jacob was born 1751.

Mr. Edward Kerschner says that his father, who was a professor of theology, studied for several years in Germany, and on his return, changed the spelling of his name from Kershner to Kerschner.

Re: Maryland Records, Brumbaogh

Married, Adam Miller and Rosanna Kershner, Jan.24, 1780

In 1827, Mary Kershner, formerly of Washington Co. Md., made her Will in Bedford Co. Penna. The will was proved in 1830.

Mary Kershner lives with her daughter, Rosanner Miller; Rosanna's son, Josiah Miller, is named executor.

Mary's son George is left $1.00. Deceased are her son Elias, daughters Mary and Elizabeth; also son Martin who has children Martin Jr, Adam, Mary, and Carolin; and son Joseph whose son David is under age. One other daughter is mentioned, Mary Wyand.

Maryland land records and what they tell us

1 October 1739

Prince George's County, Maryland

John George Kersner enters a survey for 100 acres of land, an assignment of part of Daniel Dulany's 9,340 acre grant. His patent relates that this tract, called Addition to Dutch Folly, begins at a bounded white Oak and Black Walnutt standing in the first line of a tract of land taken up for Charles Higgenbotham called the Dutch Folley and sold to the said Kersner, Fifty perches /825 feet/ from the beginning tree of the Dutch Folley.

Plotting these lines showed Addition to Dutch Folly to be a sort of a dog-legged shape around the southeastern end of Dutch Folly, so this eastern angle of Addition to Dutch Folly must have been the part that was "above" in Higgenbotham's survey. (See plat)

John George Kersner agrees to pay rent of four shillings Sterling yearly in Silver or Gold by Even and Equal portions at the two most Usual feasts of the Year Viz^{t} the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Michael the Archangell.

Ref: Patents, L G # B: 142-143

16 December, 1739
Prince George's County, Maryland

The survey for Jonathan Hager's patent for 200 acres of land called Hager's Fancy begins at a bounded white oak standing on the side of a hill within 50 yards of Hager's Dwelling.

Jonathan Hager emigrated to America about 1730 and after a short stay in Pennsylvania, came to the Valley...probably in 1737 or 1738. He was married in 1740 to Elizabeth Kershner or Grishner...had two children, a boy daughter, Rosina, born 21 April 1752, and a son, Jonathan, born 1756... Elizabeth died 16 April, 1765.

Ref: History of Washington Co., Maryland, Williams
Jonathan Hager's Bible

Jonathan Hager was assessed a fine of five pounds in tobacco by the November, 1736, Court of Prince George's County, for neglect of the roads.

Ref: Jonathan Hager, Founder, Mary Vernon Mish

In 1739 when Hager obtained his first deed...200 acres, Hagers Choice, he was living in a house which had already been built upon it...contained an arched cellar which was the refuge of Mr. Hager and his family during the Indian War.

Ref: History of Western Maryland, Scharf

The cold fearsome stone of her new house spelled safety to Elizabeth, the dank chill of the too-close springs meant convenience.

Ref: Jonathan Hager, Founder, Mish

Maryland land records and what they tell us

1740, Prince George's County, Maryland

Jon Georg Kirchner undoubtedly represents in 1731 the family which intermarried with Jonathan Hager, founder of Hagerstown. Hager's mother-in-law was "Anne" (Ann Crisner), his wife was Elizabeth (Elizabeth Crisner) and Martin Kershner (Martin Crisner) was associated, throughout the French and Indian wars and until the time of Hager's death (1775), with the founder of Hagerstown.

In 1745, Jonathan Hager sold his house in Hagerstown to a Jacob Rodner; the Rodner affiliation was always close and I am confident that "Barbary Crisner" was later "Barbara Rodner".

Ref: Letter, 9 March 1964, from Washington Co. Md. Historical Society, written by Mary Vernon (Mrs. Frank W. Jr.) Mish, author of Jonathan Hager, Founder, and a descendant of Jonathan Hager.

Thirty Thousand Names of Immigrants, Rupp p 65

From the desk of
S. G. KERSHNER

I did not mean to attribute the last ~~statement~~ sentence to you, but at the moment, cannot locate my reference. I think this is correct, however, about the lower right. You will recognize other statements from the Genealogies bless them!

Maryland land records and what they tell us

3 Nov 1748
Prince George's County, Maryland

An Inventory of the Goods and Chattles of George Kersner deceased, late of Prince George's County, is signed by Johannes Keller and Valentine Grungh, appraisers; by Martin Kersner and Jonathan Hugers, Relations; and D. Dulany, Creditor. There is no will. Ann Kersner, Administratrix, makes Oath on the holy Evangels of Almighty God that the foregoing is a Just and Perfect Inventory and that she Knows of no Concealment of any Part or Parcel thereof.

Ref: Inventories, Liber 37: 164-168

Land or real estate was not included in the inventories of that period, but descended directly to the eldest son, following the English Law of Primogeniture, until the late 1780's. If the sons were under legal age, the inventories were always signed by the two other nearest relatives. A widow had a dower right to one-third of the property during her lifetime, such dower reverting to the legal heir at her death.

Ref: Verna J. (Mrs. P. D.) Shingleton, Maryland Genealogist
<u>The Maryland and Delaware Genealogist</u>

From the desk of

S. G. KERSHNER

We don't have the exact
dates of the county
division but it must
have been after Nov
1748

Maryland lann records and what they tell us

1 July, 1749

Prince George's County was divided in 1748 and the Conococheague Settlements were placed in Frederick County.

Ann Kersner's land patent of this date, 100 acres, is called the Widow's Last Shift. The survey begins at a Bounded White Oak Standing near the head of a Spring where the said Kersner liveth. The rent is four Shillings Sterling in Silver or Gold.

These patents also provided for an Alienation fine /transfer tax/ of one whole years rent in Silver or Gold or acceptable Commodities, for every Alienation of said Land.

Ref: Patents, T I # 4 : 405-407

Maryland land records and what they tell us

10 August, 1753
Frederick County, Maryland

Peter Ridingour is granted a Patent for 190 acres of Vacant Land between two tracts of Land One belonging to Jonathan Hager the other Belonging to Martin Kersner, that tract called the First Snow beginning at a Bounded White Oak standing near the said Ridingouers Dwelling. For a special Warrent for forty Acres of it he pays two pounds ten Shillings: yearly rent of all is Seven shillings and seven pence half penny sterling.

Ref: Patents, Y & S # 6 : 345-347

Jonathan Hager patents Hagers Delight, which includes part of Higgenbottoms Exchange. The survey begins at a bounded White Oak standing on the South side of a Valley which descends into Draught of Conegochiege. For 1780 Acres he pays Seventy Three pounds fourteen Shillings, and owes three pounds, Eleven Shillings and two pence half penny Sterling yearly.

Ref: Patents Y & S # 8 : 96-98

24 September, 1759
Frederick County, Maryland

Mrs Ann Caesner is granted a patent for a tract of 42 acres called One Shift More, on a warrent granted her in 1754. The survey runs from the beginning Tree of a tract called Kisner's Addition, in the Mannor of Conogocheige.

It fits between Duth Folly and the Widows Last Shift. (See plat)

Ref: Patents, BD & GS # 13; 299-300

From the desk of

S. G. KERSHNER

Here are additional clues
to Penna. Island, where
we have done no work:
suggestions appreciated

We have followed up on Executors Deeds and found all but Wm. Hully and George Beals, so far.

From the desk of

S. G. KERSHNER

Mary her good records of Jacob Kershner, who did marry Hannah, daughter of Conrad Miller, apparently before this date. He seems to have died young, and Hannah was listed in 1783 assessment. Their eldest son was Jonathan, and youngest Jacob Jr. also daughter who married Valga. met.

Maryland land records and what they tell us

30 November, 1769
Frederick County, Maryland

I, Marttin Kirshner, being Sick and weak in Body...do make my last Will and Testament...and Order that all my Land Shall be prayst [appraised] and if is require Shall be sold, the place and mill on Bottomeck, also a tract of Land in the Buck Co. of Pensilvania Cumberland Co and also 151 accer of land former belonging to Petter Pingely...and that my Executors Shall have pour... to give...Lawfull Deeds of Conveince...[to] John and George Kirshner and George Kirshner Senior and William Hully and Jacob Kirshner and George Shultz and George Beak and also I order settled with William Beal concerning a Tract of Land which will Shoo by the Books...

...to my oldest sone Martin 50 pounds...then in an Equel Sheer with his two following Brothers...my Second Sone David and...theerd Sone George so that the three sons above mentioned Ehge shall have three parts and my oldest Daughter Madalena...and my Second Daughter Margareth Shall have two parts... of rail and personal estate...and them two Daughters of George Reitenawers Deceased named Margrath Rietenower and Elizabeth Reitenawer shall have fiffty Accers of Land between 'em...from my on Land adjoining there on fiffty Accers ...And in case any of my Sons or Daughters shall enter into Conrod Millers Family by Marige...then any of them shall have no more than fure Shillings Starlling for his hooll part...

And...my youngest Sone named George shall be...Bound to Trad as sone as he is Cabaubel to good Christian People to be Prantis [apprenticed]...

In presence of

MARTEN KIRSHNER

Hinrich Reitnour [German script]
Henry Schnebely [English script]
Johannes...rschner [German script]

On the 30th Day of December 1769 came Henry Ridinour, Henry Schnebly, John Casner, the three subscribing witnesses...and declared they did see the testator sign...

From the desk of

S. G. KERSHNER

Your index showed another Contentment to Martin Kershner 1742 - this is the one not yet received. these pages are dated, not numbered, so additional ones can be inserted. We think this is "that to be settled with William Beal"

Maryland land records and what they tell us

16 October 1770
Frederick County, Maryland

Executors of Daniel Dulany to Martin Kesner...for one Hundred pounds Maryland Currency and also the sum of five Shillings Sterling...all that tract called the Contentment Beginning at a bounded White Oak at the foot of a Ridge about thirty perches from the Waggon road that goes from Bumgarners Mill to Felta Graus...containing one hundred twenty six acres of land more or less...

On the back of which Deed was the following Endorsements...Received... from Martin Kesner the sum of five Shillings Sterling being the consideration money within mentioned...

Received the 21 November 1770 of Martin Kesner five Shillings & half penny Sterling for an Alienation fine...

Will Murdock Beall

Ref: Liber N, 472-473
Will of Martin Kershner Sr, 1769

Maryland land records and what they tell us

31 July, 1773
Frederick County, Maryland

Jonathan Hager and Martin Kirshner, Yeomen [freeholders] Executors to the Estate of Martin Kershner Sen^r Late of Frederick County, by Virtue of his Last Will and Testament...for Sixty pounds...Money of Pennsylvania... paid by John Kershner...do sell to John Kershner Part of a Tract of Land or Resurvey on Dutch Folly, Addition to Dutch Folly, the Widows Last Shift and One Shift More Called Contentment...Beginning at the end of 52 perches [832 feet] on the first Line of Addition to Dutch Folly...which Begins at Two Bounded Trees Standing on the side of a Stony Hill Near and Below John Kershners Barn, the one Tree a Black Wallnutt the other a White Oak... Beginning on a Limestone Rock Near the Head of a Large Limestone Spring and Runing Southe 33° West Six Perches and one half Perch [107 feet] into said Spring, thence down the said Spring and the water that issues therefrom... just at or near the Division Line Run between him and his Brother George Kershner...said Spring shall be to the Advantage of the One as much as the other... 178 3/4 acres...

Ref: Frederick County Land Records, T: 333-336

Jonathan Hager and Martin Kirshner, executors, to George Kershner [same as above until survey description]

Beginning for the Part cut off for said George Kershner at the Beginning Tree of the Resurvey Called Content said Bounded White Oak being the Beginning Tree of a Tract of Land called the Widows last Shift and runing thence with the Courses of said Resurvey South 56° East 120 Perches... Said Spring and the Water that Issues therefrom at or near the Division Line Run Between him and his Brother John Kershner...shall be to the Advantage of the One as much as the other...169¼ Acres...

Ref: Frederick County Land Records, T : 188-192

SOME INFERENCES

References to the tract or Resurvey on Dutch Folly, Addition to Dutch Folly, the Widow's Last Shift and One Shift More called Contentment, suggest that to these four original patents totaling 342 acres other land has been added. The whole seems to have been resurveyed and called Contentment, resurveyed again and called Trouble with Contentment, and again resurveyed and called Amendment to Trouble with Contentment.

In 1773, a number of other deeds were made besides those to John and George, but from the language of their two deeds, the intention was to draw a common division line between John and George and give each of them the equal advantage of the spring.

Plats of these tracts deeded to John Kershner and George his brother (see sketch) show that both surveys start near the spring(s) which is on John George Kershner's original Addition to Dutch Folly. John and George have a common boundary beginning at the spring, then southwest down the course of the spring and to a southwestern boundary. At John's westernmost point, what is apparently a minor clerical error sets his whole western boundary outside the original western boundary of the Dutch Folly. Like a jigsaw puzzle piece, it is the right shape but the wrong place. If not corrected, the area of the tract within would be far more than the amount stated. But, if one compass direction in the deed book copy read South instead of North--and these words look very similar in the script of the time---John's tract would fit exactly, and his eastern boundary would conicide with George's western boundary, and his tract would be the right size. Both total 348 acres.

One may speculate on the motivation for this division.

Consider the dates we have seen for previous land transactions. John George Kershner acquired two tracts in 1739, then died intestate in 1748, thus leaving both to his son Martin, who, together with his daughter Elizabeth's husband, Jonathan Hager, signed the inventory. Therefore Martin must have been the oldest son, and Elizabeth, whose husband signed for her,

...more

the other oldest child. Ann Kershner, the widow, was named executrix, and in 1749 and 1753 patented two additional tracts in her own name. She also had a dower right in her husband's property, and unless she relinquished those dower rights, there could be no division of the property until her death.

When her son, Martin Sr., stated in his will of 1769 that he was sick and weak, he left instructions for completing much unfinised business. This suggests that by then his mother had died and he was at that time in the midst of winding up the estate of both his parents. It is likely he was under 50 years of age.

His executors divided up the parents' original land almost equally between the brothers John and George, adding some from another tract to the northeast end and subtracting about the same amount from the southwest end, but retaining almost the exact acreage. Although Martin Sr. did not specify their relationship to himself, it seems probable that they were his younger brothers, minors when John George Kershner died in 1748. At the time of the division in 1773, John already had his own barn on the property, hence was well established. He must have been the Johannes Kirschner/John Carsner who witnessed Martin Sr.'s will in 1769, together with Hinrich Reitnaur and Henry Schnebly. (Martin Jr.'s wife was Elizabeth Schnebely.) ref: D.A.R.

This barn was "above" the two bounded trees, which seems to mean uphill from them. The course of the spring would have been a lower point, and the bounded white oak on the side of a hill possibly a median point (See plat) It seems likely that John Kershner's barn was on or near the old line between Dutch Folly and One Shift More. Ann lived near the spring. Doubtless there was a cluster of family houses there, for mutual protection.

Martin Kershner Sr. is said to have had two sisters born before 1731, when the family arrived in Philadelphia on the ship Samuel, Elizabeth Hager and Barbara Reitnauer. In 1753, Peter Ridinhour patented land between Hager and Kershner on the same date Hager patented a huge tract.

...more

Maryland land records and what they tell us
2 add inferences

Martin Kershner Sr. also left an outright bequest to the two daughters of George Reitenauer deceased, 50 acres between them adjacent to their own 50 acres. Could this have been at the request of his mother, Ann? In 1769, neither was married, but in 1777 they received 50 acres being Resurvey on resurvey of Trouble with Contentment adjoining George Schultzer, the receipt being signed by Wm. Spangler and wife, and Simon Garrick and Elizabeth his wife. Ref: Washington Co. Maryland Deeds, 2 June 1777

George Shulz is also mentioned in Martin Kershner Sr.'s Will. He was husband to Martin's daughter, Elizabeth, who married, second, Martin Harry and moved to Augusta, Co. Virginia.

David Kershner, the "second sone" of Martin Sr., also moved to Augusta County, Virginia. More of them later.

Maryland land records and what they tell us

1778-1779

The Oaths of Allegiance List, Washington County, Maryland

Suggested Relationships

On John Stull's List

Martin Kershner — This would be Capt. Martin Kershner Jr.

On John Cellar's List — Zeller?

John Kershner)
George Kershner) Probably the brothers of Martin Kershner Sr.

Jacob Kershner — Either the younger brother of Martin Kershner Jr. or Jacob Jr., son of that brother, who died before 1788
Or Jacob born 1751, son of Philip

On Henry Schnebely's List — Is this Doctor Schnebely?

Jonathan Hager — Jr., his father having died 1775

David Kirshner — Martin Kershner Sr's "Second Sone", but possibly younger than Jacob Kershner Sr. who was disinherited for marrying Conrad Miller's daughter.

Jonathan Kershner — oldest son and legal heir of Jacob Kershner and Hannah Miller.

Philip Kershner — We do not yet understand Philip's relationship to the other Kershners.

Ma ryland land records and what they tell us

FURTHER INFERENCES: 1784 Assessment

John Kershner and George Kershner Sr. still held their parts of the Resurvey on Contentment. John had 178 acres, the amount deeded to him in 1773. George Kershner, here designated George Kershner Sr., has 169, the amount he received at the same time. So this may clear up the mystery of the Will of Martin Kershner Sr., when in 1769 he specified that deeds were to be made to John and George Kershner and George Kershner Senr. It appears to be George Kershner Sr. who was the brother of John Kershner.

On this Assessment list, George Kershner Jr. and David Kershner held lands with identical descriptions and amounts. So we can conjecture that the latter two were the sons of Martin Kershner Sr., and that George Kershner Jr. was the boy mentioned in the Will who was to be apprenticed when old enough. He was then the nephew and namesake of George Kershner Sr., which was a normal enough thing at that time, when Senior and Junior merely meant elder and younger, and had not yet come to mean Father and Son.

It is said by excellent researchers that George, the son of Martin Kershner Sr., married Mary Flenner, and moved with the Flenners to Ohio shortly after 1800, and there died in an epidemic. In 1789, deeds relating to Mary Flenner's inheritance refer to her husband as George Kershner Sr. , reminding us that the Senior-Junior appellation is a sometime thing.

The First Census, nominally dated 1790, sometimes includes tax lists from 1783. Two George Kershners are listed.

Ref: 1784 Assessment, Washington Co., Maryland
The Flenner Family, Ernest O. Nay, 1970
The First Census of the United States, Washington Co., Maryland
Washington Co., Md., Land Records, F:467