Ruth Bownds Kershner
1414 Red Bud Trail
Austin, TX 78746
Ph. 512/327-2020

Draft, 26 March 1977

PHILIP KERSHNER b. ca. 1750

Philip Kershner's name on the 1778 Oaths of Allegiance in Washington County, Maryland, assures us he was at least 18, or born by 1760. Research has convinced us that he was not a son of George and Anna Kershner, our immigrants, but came to Maryland from Berks County, Pennsylvania. This probability is discussed under the heading, "The Pennsylvania Connection". Pennsylvania records say he was born about 1750, which seems entirely consistent with the ages of his children.

In 1781, Philip Kershner bought the north half of Peter Ridenour's tract, First Snow, to which had been added more land. Peter Ridenour patented the original tract in 1753. In "The Ridenour Connection", which you might like to study at this point, are, not only Philip Kershner's extensive First Snow land records, but indications of Kershner-Ridenour relationships that go back at least to 1743 and possibly to Germany. From these records, we have convinced ourselves that Philip Kershner's wife, Christiana, was Peter Ridenour's daughter.

Philip Kershner's farm was less than a mile south of the original George and Anna Kershner patents of 1739-1759. Philip also did a little land trading, but mostly in town lots. His signature was in German script. He was active in Salem Reformed Congregation, in community affairs, and at least once made a loan.

Washington County Maryland Deeds E:245 — 23 January 1787
John Grove
to Philip Kershner
Bill of Sale...consideration £8...personal property including a brown horse, red cow, white sow...flower barrels, pickle tub, churn, grain growing on plantation where I live on...

Ibid F:299 — 1 August 1789
Jonathan Harry
to Philip Kershner
consideration £ 3...Lot No. 69 in Elizabeth Town, 82' x 240'...

Ibid F:467 — 4 December 1789
George Kershner Sr. and Mary his wife
to Philip Kershner
Westernmost half of Lot No. 72 in Elizabethtown, bequeathed to Mary Kershner by John Flenner her father...

Ibid G:251 — 18 October 1790
Nathaniel Morgan
to Philip Kershner
consideration £ 125, Easternmost half of Lot No. 76 in Elizabeth Town, 41' a 240', with buildings and improvements...

In the 1790 census, the family of Philip Kershner included himself, the one male above 16; five boys under 16; and three females, plus a slave. Census of 1850 for Clark County, Ohio, gives the age of Philip Kershner's son Jacob as 73, and his tombstone says he died in 1853 at the age of 76. His birth is placed about 1777 in Maryland. The History of Bond County,

Illinois, says Isaac Kershner, Philip's son, was born about 1782 in Pennsylvania, so obviously the children whose baptisms were recorded at Salem Church are the younger ones. Their birthdates are given below:

John, 29 September 1788
Jonathan, 1 April 1791
Elisabetha, 31 March 1793
Martin, 15 June 1795
Daniel, 21 April 1798
David, 27 November 1800

Philip Kershner began the sale of his town lots with the half lot he bought from George Kershner Sr. and his wife Mary Flenner. The part they kept had a house on it, and perhaps the part Philip bought did too, but we have found no indication Philip lived there.

Ibid: H:468 27 November 1793

Philip Kershner
to Frederick Kailer
consideration Ł 40...Westernmost half of Lot No. 72 in Elizabeth Town.

Translations of some old accounts of the Salem Reformed Congregation are in the Maryland Historical Society at Baltimore, and were filmed by the L.D.S. (Mormon) Library, Roll 3441. Philip Kershner seems to have collected amounts pledged for the support of Pastor Rauhauser.

1797 Balance due. Ł 22. John Heger, Jacob Zeller by Philip Kirchner
9 May 1797 Cash from Philip Kirshner Ł 2.8.½
9 March 1798 cash rec, Philip Kerschner Ł 2.8.½
10 April 1798 by Philip Kirschner Ł 5.0.0.
16 June 1798 Settled with Philip Kerschner Ł 2. 8. ½
14 December 1798 Settled with Philip Kerschner Ł 2.8.½
8 May 1800 Philip Kirschner dr 1.10.6
13 March 1801 Philip Kirschner, subscription money 9.2.6
Balance due P Kirschner 1.17.6

Washington County Maryland Deeds P:560 6 April 1804

Philip Kershner
to Rosanna Rohrer
consideration Ł275...Easternmost half of Lot # 76 in Elizabeth town...

Ibid S:571 5 July 1806, recorded 1 Jan. 1807

Philip Kershner
to Martin Baightle (note: ?Bachtel)
consideration Ł 5...lot in Harry's town No. 69...82' breadth, 240' length
"Philip Kershner (in German)"

Three times Philip Kershner put up bonds for his performance as supervisor of the road "from Hagerstown to Conococheague Creek at Ritter's Ford". These are recorded in the Washington County Deed Books, M:173 (1799), R:332 (1805), and S:883 (1807). Ritter's Ford must have been on John Ritter's land on Conococheague Creek, the tract called Conquest, later owned by Jacob Kershner b. ca. 1752. By 1815, and possibly before, the ford was called Kershner's Ford.

In 1809, Philip Kershner bought a small farm on the west side of Conococheage Creek, probably near St. Paul's but not so far as Clear Springs. Wyand says the grantor's name may have been Stine or Stein instead of Stone. The tract, of no great size or importance in itself, has made it possible to trace Philip and his descendants for another 40 years.

Ibid T:367 27 May 1809

Mathias Stone
to Philip Kershner
consideration $100...32 acres...part of Ross's Neighbor...beginning at the end of 85 perches on the 20th line of Jacob Sibert's deed to Mathias...

His next deed looks like one of the familiar ones in which the grantor turns over his land to his heirs in return for lifetime support for the parents. But there was more to it than meets the eye. Philip Kershner's son Peter, married in 1804 to Elizabeth Wachtell, was omitted. And Jacob Kershner assumed a difficult task: the trustee was presumably to do all the work and be responsible for the support, but to get only an equal share in the inheritance after the parents' death.

Ibid Y:859 10 August 1813

Philip Kershner
to Jacob Kershner of Philip
consideration $5...part of First Snow...begins at the end of the 8th line of the original...(note:this is the exact tract conveyed to Philip by Peter Ridenour in 1781)...a trust for the payment of $200 annually to said Philip Kershner during his lifetime; after the death of the sd Philip Kershner, Jacob shall continue to account to all the children annually for $200 during the life of Christiana the wife of sd Philip, and further in trust for support of the two younger children, Daniel and David until they arrive at a proper age to be bound out to trade...After the death of Philip...and Christiana his wife, the tract "part of First Snow and the tracts adjoining to it" shall be sold and "as money shall become payable the same shall be equally divided between the following of my children and the representatives of those who may die before the afsd premises shall have been sold--to wit, Barbara Start wife of Nathan Start late Kershner, Jacob Kershner, Isaac Kershner, Philip Kershner, Mary Kershner wife of Jacob Kershner of Peter, John Kershner, Jonathan Kershner, Elizabeth Kershner, Martin Kershner, Daniel Kershner and David Kershner...

Subsequent events suggest that an estrangement developed between Philip Kershner and Christiana his wife. Not that they got a divorce--that took an act of the legislature, and none is recorded for them--but it seems probable that Philip moved out to his little farm and left Christiana the place she grew up in. He turned his land over to his children and arranged for an income for Christiana, and did not intrude when those children fell out over the management of the property. In 1815, the other children, with the exception of Peter and Isaac, sued Jacob. The following quotations are from the original hand-written Chancery Papers 2956, of Washington County, preserved in the Hall of Records, Annapolis:

(Outside of envelope)
"Kershner, Jonathan, Jacob, Philip, John, Elizabeth, Martin, Daniel and David
Nathan Start and Barbara uxr
Jacob Kershner of Peter and Mary uxr
Washington County 1815
Bill, Inj.
Not recorded"

(Inside, paper No. 1)

Jonathan Kershner and others
vs.
Jacob Kershner

Bill in Equity to obtain an injunction to stay waste

to the Chancellor of Maryland...Complaint of ye orators respectfully showeth that Philip Kershner of Washington County on 10 August 1813 executed a deed of trust of the tracts...included in the courses of the deed... for the consideration and purposes therein mentioned...among other things provided that after the death of sd Philip Kershner and Christina his wife ...sd Jacob Kershner trustee should sell sd land...and money be equally divided between the following children and the representatives of such as might die...Barbara Startz wife of Nathan Start, Jacob Kershner, Philip Kershner, Mary wife of Jacob Kershner of Peter, John Kershner, Elizabeth, Martin, Daniel and David Kershner...sd Jacob instead of preserving sd lands ...hath...profit of it himself by destroying and wasting the same in a ruinous degree for his own immediate advantage...converted eight acres of meadow into arable land, and hath cut down many of the valuable timber trees and sold them...and sd Jacob...pretends he hath a right to spoil sd lands...not for firewood or enclosures...but for sd Jacob's sole benefit.

Orators pray an injunction under a large penalty not to do further waste. 24 April 1815

(Affidavit) Jonathan Kershner...made oath 24 April 1815 that the facts stated are true...trees were cut down during the summer fall and winter of 1814 and meadow ground plowed the present spring...

(Paper No. 2) Affidavit by Daniel Kershner 24 April 1815 (to same effect)

Affidavit by Martin Showaker, cooper, who purchased, about 10 August 1814, a fine white oak tree for cooper stuff at the price of two dollars and three quarters which tree was cut by sd Jacob Kershner from sd land.

(Paper No. 3) Copy of deed.

In a most unusual move, Christiana Kershner left a will at her death. It was not uncommon for widows to leave wills, but married women legally owned only their clothing. The only explanation I can advance is that this was part of her agreement with Philip, her husband.

Washington County Maryland Wills D: 305 21 February 1825
Christiana Kershner...sick
...to daughter Polly, wife of Jacob Kershner living in New York State,$10
...to daughter Elizabeth, wife of Samuel Heller of New York State, $10
...to son Jacob, $1 as his full portion
residue to be sold, and money divided between my nine living children namely Peter, Isaac, Philip, John, Jonathan, Martin, Daniel, Polly and Elizabeth, and the children of my dec'd daughter Barbara, namely Soloman,

John, Philip, Polly and Nathan...and "whereas I have advanced to Nathan Starret (who was married to my daughter Barbara) at several times the sum of $30 which shall be deducted out of the portion coming to my daughter's children which she had by the sd Nathan Starrit to wit: John, Philip, Polly and Nathan, and that no part therof shall be deducted out of Soloman's portion of his mother's share..."
...son Isaac to be executor

Christena Kershner

Witnesses: A. Kershner
Nathanial Kershner
Mary Kershner

Proved 21 March 1826 by Andrew Kershner, Nathaniel Kershner, Isaac Kershner

Washington County Orphan's Court records, page 171, show that on 11 April 1826 Isaac Kershner, executor of Christiana Kershner, was ordered to sell goods and chattels as inventoried.

The Hall of Records Index lists Inventories G:247 and G:288, and Accounts 8:48.

Washington County Maryland Inventories G:288 10 April 1826

Inv. Personal Estate of Christiana Kershner dec'd

one clock & black case $4
one old chest of drawers $5
one Beaurough $2.50
one chest $1
one do 12½
one bedstead & bedding $15
1 bed quilt $5
1 do $5
1 pr blankets $3
5 sheets 1 pr pillowcases $5
Tow linen @ 28¢ per yd $4.55
Bed ticking @ 40¢ per yd $3.60
Towels & Richever $1.50
one hackel $2
Queens ware, coffee pot, tea pot $2.89
yearns & sewing thread $1
bag of soap $1.25
3 baskets, crocks, lard $1
one saddle $1
carpetting .50
one 10 plate stove with pipe shelter $12
one reel & 1 old spinning wheel 1.50
7 chairs $3
one Teable $1
one bewter dish tin ware plates teaspoons Teablespoons .50
Sundries of delph ware .20
2 tin buckets .50
4 flatt irons .50
2 wooden bowles .20
2 skillets, 1 dutch oven, 1 iron pott $1
a lot of Bottles .25
one pott rack .30
one german Bible $2
2 Teable Clothes $1.50
Knifes and forks .75
one looking Glass 10¢
two silver buckles .60
butter boats & Winegar jug .25
one Copper Kittle $4

(s) Abraham Roher
Daniel Reichard

11 April 1826.
Came Isaac Kershner & made oath etc....

Ibid List of Sales J:217 12 April 1826

Goods and Chattles & Personal estate of Christiana Kershner
(Note: I have rearranged this three-page list to show who bought what)

Isaac Kershner: saddle, pot rack, 2 home made sheets, quilt, linen, 4 chairs, fine hickel, 2 flat irons, 1 German book, corn basket, table, Bead & bedstead, stove & pipe, case of drawers.

Daniel Kershner: slate, blanket, sheet, pillow cases, quilt, box, sope, tea canister, 2 jars, wooden dishes, tin bucket, lot of tin, 1 Arithmetic

Philip Kershner: 1 rocking chair, 9 yd. bedticking, 2 flask, pair of buckets, lot of Queensware, 1 table cloth, 1 Bible, 1 looking glass, forks, feather bed an bedstead, 24 hour clock, 1 bottle

Isaac Sturtzman: 1 Chest, small frien pan, table cloth, knives and forks

Isaac Ridenour: slate, bolster & mollet, towels, queens ware, 8 spoons & Puter dishes, pot & dipper, dutch oven, bedstead

Daniel Oster: (a large buyer, but I did not list his purchases)

Peter Kershner: 1 copper kettle

(Note: all the items were household goods, no clothing, no livestock, no farming implements unless a saddle qualifies.)

It seems quite possible that it was Christiana's husband Philip Kershner b. ca. 1750 who was the buyer at her estate sale. A clock, looking glass, Bible, and other items similar to the ones he bought are also included in his own inventory at his death.

On 17 Feb. 1827, Isaac Kershner filed a list of debts due the estate of his mother (Inventories G:457)and listed them as sperate--collectible. Daniel Kershner owed $50 and Peter Kershner owed $20, both without interest. Isaac Kershner, Executor, filed his first account (8:48) on 4 April 1828. He does not say why these individuals paid in the amounts listed:

"This accountant charges himself with the Amount...of Sales...of

goods and chattles	$74.28		
also with cash on hand	25.00		
Also recd of Sheriff	52.61	and craves allowance for	
" " " Samuel Shindle	70.32	money paid (note: 14	
" " " Jacob Kershner of P	243.00	items, none to Kershners)	
" " " Dan[l] Kershner	56.25		
" " " Peter Kershner	22.70		
" with advancements on Will	30.00		
	596.96		182.96
		bal due the estate distributed	414.00

The final account is from the Balance or Distribution Book in the Washington County Courthouse, 1828-1835, p. 9:

Isaac Kershner, exr of 4 April 1828
Christiana Kershner

Specific legacies to Polly Kershner and Elizabeth Heller, $10 each,

to Jacob Kershner, $1			
to Peter Kershner	39.30	to Soloman Kershner	7.86
to Isaac Kershner	39.30	to John Starret	7.86
to Philip Kershner	39.30	to Philip Starret	7.86
to John Kershner	39.30	to Polly Starret	7.86
to Jonathan Kershner	39.30	to Jonathan Starret	7.86
to Martin Kershner	39.30		
to Daniel Kershner	39.30	(Note: these five amounts total 39.30	
to Polly Kershner	39.30	and represent the share of Barbara, de-	
to Elizabeth Heller	39.30	ceased, paid to her children.)	
		(Total	$414.00)

After Christiana's death, Philip Kershner b. ca. 1750 definitely reappeared, making a lifetime lease of the 32 acre farm he bought in 1809. It had a curious provision, that should Peter become disabled, this land should provide support for him. And Peter's widow was to have a lifetime interest after Peter's death. Recalling that Peter was not among the heirs named in Philip Kershner's 1815 deed, we get the impression that he was to be treated differently. But not to waste timber!

Washington County Maryland Deeds II:554 3 August 1827
Philip Kershner
to Peter Kershner and wife Catherine
..."Lease and to farm let"...tract...Philip Kershner purchased of Mathias Stone...32 acres...for life and to widow after Peter's death...should Peter become disabled, the land shall be liable for Peter's support. No waste shall be committed in any timber...
Witnesses: Jacob Schnebly "Philip Kershner in German"
A. Kershner

This "A. Kershner" also witnessed Christiana's will in 1825, and when he appeared in court for probate, was called Andrew Kershner. He is not to be confused with Andrew Kershner, 1786-1857, only son of Martin Kershner b. 1743, and probably signed his name in this way to avoid such problems. Nathanial, second child of Isaac Kershner and Eve Startzman, according to Helen Kershner of Manhattan, Kansas, was born in 1808 and referred to "Cousin Andrew Kershner". We feel that A. (Andrew) Kershner was a grandson of Philip and Christiana, a son of one of their older sons, but have not yet identified him.

Apparently the disagreement between Jacob Kershner, the trustee named by Philip, and his brothers and sisters, was back in the court, or maybe still in litigation.

Ibid 11:916 9 April 1828
Jacob Kershner
to Isaac Kershner and Jonathan Kershner
Whereas...in Case in Equity...Washington County Court...decree 4 April 1828...sd Jacob is directed to convey tract to sd Isaac and Jonathan in trust...consideration $(?L) 500...part of First Snow, 170 acres conveyed heretofore by Philip Kershner to sd Jacob Kershner...deed 10 August 1813 ...Y:859...in trust for the use, intents and purposes contained in said deed from Philip Kershner...

Ibid 11:917 9 April 1828
Jacob Kershner
to Jonathan Kershner
consideration $553.30...170 acres conveyed to sd Jacob Kershner by Philip Kershner by deed 10 August 1813, in trust for certain uses and purposes... and all right of Jacob Kershner in sd tract when same is disposed of...

So Jacob Kershner b. 1777, then about 51 years old, turned over the First Snow farm to two of his brothers, and also sold his interest in his father's estate. He had made plans to emigrate to Ohio as far back as 1804, when he had gone with Martin Baum and made a land entry there.

When Philip Kershner made his will 5 November 1836, he did not sign it in German. He signed with an X, which probably indicates that he was too weak to write. He was probably more than 85, and his inventory suggests that he had led a Spartan life. He was no pauper, for he had made loans to his children and others.

Washington County Maryland Wills D:215 5 November 1836
Will of Philip Kershner
...personal property to be divided among my children (not named)
...to my executor, Daniel Kershner, the farm lying on the west side of Conococheague in Washington County, it being the farm deeded to my son Peter during his life and is now in sd Peter's possession...32 acres... after the death of Peter, he shall sell the same and divide the money between all my children living and the children of those deceased
Witnesses: A. Kershner Philip + Kershner
Wm + Winfield
Elizabeth + Myers
Proved 1 December by Daniel Kershner and Andrew Kershner

The Estate Index also lists for Philip Kershner, Letters of Administration E:161, 6 December 1836, and the records abstracted below.

Washington County Maryland Inventories K:360 1 December 1836
John Bare & Daniel Oster to appraise the Goods Chattels & personal estate of Philip Kershner late of Washington Co. Srº
...oath taken 9 December 1836 before A. Kershner, Justice of the Peace

1 Clock & case	8.00	1 Lot German Books	1.57
Small trunk & ban box	.62½	1 hone	.12½
1 bed & bedstead	5.00		21.12½
2 piller cases and 1 sheet	.25		
1 blankett	.37½	Dan'l Kershner exr	
1 coverlett	4.00	made oath	
1 looking glass	.12½	13 Dec. 1836	
1 set of shaving tools	.50		
3 Bitlys?	.37½		

Ibid List of Debts A:300 13 Dec. 1836
Debts Owing to Philip Kershner...Daniel Kershner Exr.

Jonathan Kershner, note, int. from	18 June 1833	109.69
Same	24 Aug. 1836	288.42
Isaac Kershner	25 Aug. 1836	11.62
Jonathan and Isaac Kershner Trustees 7 month & 20 days rent, 1 Apr. to 20 Nov. 1836 @ 200 per yr.		127.79
Cash in the House at death of deceased		65.94

Notice that the trustees figured their rent exactly to 20 November 1836. I would expect that to indicate the day Philip Kershner died. Philip's personal property, appraised at $21, brought only $14 at the Sale (M:469), 14 January 1837. Daniel Oster bought three hymn books, John Bear a Sermon Book, and Daniel Kersner a German Bible--doubtless these formed the "lot of German books". John Bear also bought a looking glass, Thomas McCormac 2 bottles and William Winkfield one bottle, and Daniel Kershner bought the Bead, Beadstead, bedding, chest, and umbrella. The clock wasn't mentioned.

By 14 Nov. 1837, Daniel Kershner, the executor, was able to report (Accts:11:209) collections, notes receivable, interest due, and cash to the amount of $668.85. He had made some small payments, including $2 to Rev. Edwards and $12.25 to Dr. C. McGill, plus court and estate costs $210.

His final account of the estate of Philip Kershner, 28 July 1839 (Accounts 11:439) provides the absolute identification of Philip Kershner who died 20 Nov. 1836 as Christiana's husband: they have the same list of children. The estate was distributed as follows:

to Jacob Kershner	44.05 3/11
to Peter Kershner	44.05 3/11
to Isaac Kershner	44.05 3/11
to Jacob Kershner and wife	44.05 3/11
to Jno Kershner	44.05 3/11
to Philip Kershner	44.05 3/11
to Jonathan Kershner	44.05 3/11
to Martin Kershner	44.05 3/11
to Dan'l Kershner	44.05 3/11
to Sam'l Heller and wife	44.05 3/11
to Nathan Startz heirs viz	
Sam'l King and wife	14.68 1/3
Philip Start	14.68 1/3
Jn° Start	14.68 1/3

We have not followed up on the sale of First Snow, which would have been handled by the trustees after Philip's death, having already been lured many years beyond the period we proposed to research. But there is yet more to Philip's estate.

On 31 August, 1847, Daniel Kershner reported (Sale of Real Estate Q:493) that he had sold 32 acres at $13.50 per acre to Samuel Stockwell for $432. Again, he distributed the proceeds. Each distribution provides more clues on the members of this family, and we see more of them have died. Each of the following received $25.60 1/10: Peter is missing, of course, and apparently left no heirs. Among the few expenses was $1, Andrew Kershner.

Ibid, Accounts 16:76 7 December 1849

to Isaac Kershner's heirs
to Jacob Kershner
to Philip Kershner
to Jonathan Kershner
to John Kershner's heirs
to Martin Kershner
to Daniel Kershner
to Sam'l Heller & wife
to Mary Kershner
to the Heirs of Nathan & Barbara Start

Philip Kershner b. ca. 1750 and Christiana his wife had nine boys and three girls. The six youngest were baptized at Salem, beginning with John in 1788, but we are not sure of the order of the older six. In the 1813 deed, the girls were scattered among the boys, and the last six were listed in order of birth: Peter was missing. More data are needed, but we can contribute the following records and guesses:

Philip Kershner b. ca. 1750 Pa. d. 20 Nov. 1836 Wash. Co. Md.
md. Christiana b. ca. 1756 (prob. dau. of Peter Ridenour)
Their issue:

Philip Kershner might have been the oldest, because there is a Salem record of a Philip Kershner and wife Barbara whose son, Johannes, was born 18 March and baptized 16 May 1796 at Salem. However, Philip was consistently listed fourth or fifth among the sons. None of the indexed records we have looked up turned out to be Philip, the son: all were his father's. We do not have accurate census readings, don't know whether this son emigrated or not, or where he lived. But he was alive in 1849. If there is any other Philip Kershner about his age in Washington County, we have seen no trace of him.

Barbara Kershner was first on the 1813 list, and already married to Nathan Start/Startz/Starrit. She is seen by Christiana Kershner's Will and distribution records to have been the mother of Soloman Kershner. A Soloman Kershner was born 29 June 1799 to Soloman Kershner and Barbara Reudeneur (Salem). There is a St. John's record of a marriage between Daniel Reidenauer and Barbara Kershner in March (no day given) 1798. The Estate of Daniel Ridenour was administered 5 May 1798 by Philip Kershner. Daniel Ridenour was born 1773, son of Mathias Ridenour, according to Miss Edna Ridenour, and it was the other children of Mathias who received half of Daniel Ridenour's estate. This indicates that Daniel left no children since his brothers and sisters were heirs. The unnamed widow received the other half--not the usual widow's third--when Philip Kershner made the distribution 9 December 1800. On 28 October 1801, Barbara Ridenour and Nathan Start were issued a marriage license in Washington Co. On 11 December 1801, Soloman Kershner and Margaret Kershner were married by Pastor Rauhauser: he was a son of Capt. John Kershner and she a daughter of Martin Kershner b. 1743, so they were first cousins once removed.

Jacob Kershner was born 1777 in Maryland and married, 9 February 1803, Elizabeth Ridenour. This was not the daughter of Martin Ridenour, for that Elizabeth was named as Elizabeth Cass in the 1807 deed. Instead, she is thought to have been the youngest daughter, born 1778, of Jacob Ridenour by his second wife, Barbara. Peter D. Ridenour, in his Autobiography, gave the 1808 Will of Jacob Ridenour b. 1744, his great grandfather, in full. Witnesses were Phillip Kershner and Jacob Kershner of Phillip. This Jacob Ridenour and the Mathias Ridenour above mentioned were brothers, sons of Nicholas Ridenour II, eldest son of Rosina Kershner and Nicholas Ridenour I. Please see "The Ridenour Connection".

To Jacob and Elizabeth Kershner were born, according to the records of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Elizabethtown,

17 October 1803, Isaac. Sp: Jacob Reitenauer and wife Barbara
29 December 1804, Jacob. Sp: Isaac Reitenauer

Descendants' records show that Elizabeth Ridenour Kershner died in Washington County Md., that he remarried, and with the second wife, moved to Clark Co. Ohio. Census and cemetary records there show her name was Catherine: we find a marriage of a Jacob Kershner to Catherine Albert on 8 April 1826 by Pastor Rothrauff in Washington Co. Md.

It was probably Jacob Kershner b. 1804, son of Jacob b. 1777 and Elizabeth Ridenour, who married, 27 February 1827, Sarah Varble in Washington County. An account of the life of John Kershner of Clark Co.

Ohio, b. 4 October 1829 in Springfield Township(Clark County Ohio Biographical Sketches, 1907), relates that he was son of Jacob Kershner, born in Hagerstown Md., who married in 1825 Sarah Worble.

"In 1804, Jacob's father came to this, now Clark County, for the purpose of entering land. Mr. Baum, the Government Surveyor, was at the time surveying this part of Ohio, and Mr. Kershner---being a relative of Mr. Baum's---traveled with him some four months...and in the fall, returned to Maryland where he remained until 1825, when he, with his sons Jacob, Isaac, and William, and Jacob's wife, removed here. In the spring of 1825 he went back to Maryland for the rest of the family..."

Although this sketch omits the name of Jacob's father, it gives us Jacob's wife, Sarah Worble/Varble, and two of his brothers, Isaac and William, of Hagerstown, Md. Jacob Kershner b. 1777 had a number of children christened at Salem as well as St. Paul's, including Isaac b. 1803 and William b. 1813. And Jacob Kershner turned the First Snow property over to his brothers in 1828 and disappeared. The pieces of this puzzle fit very well together, though the family probably moved in 1828.

One very interesting clue, almost concealed in this sketch,is the statement that "Mr. Kershner--being a relative of Mr. Baum's" (the government surveyor) traveled with him..." Mr. Baum was a grandson of the Martin Kershner b. ca. 1720 and was mentioned in his Will, 1769. Please refer to the Kershner-Baum-Flenner chapter by Douglas D. Woodard. Mr. Kershner, the relative of Mr. Baum, was a grandson of another Martin Kershner who died in Berks Co. Pa. 1782 (refer to "The Pennsylvania Connection") and a great-grandson of Rosina Kershner Ridenour who died after 1760 in Maryland (refer to "The Ridenour Connection"). We have found no other relationship between these two men, but they thought, in 1804, that they were related. It is another bit of indirect evidence that makes us think the Pennsylvania and Maryland Kershners were related.

Peter Kershner was married 17 March 1804 to Catherine Wochtel by Pastor Rauhauser of Salem Congregation and other Reformed churches. In Deed W:652, Peter Kershner and wife Catherine, late Wachtel, Co-heirs of John Wachtel, sold, for £ 50, all their right to the land of John Wachtel. The deed refers to his will of Sept. 10, 1810, and was made 30 July 1811. Both Peter and Catherine signed with an X.

The Wachtel land was in the Clear Springs-St. Paul's area, as was the 32 acres Philip Kershner b. ca. 1750 bought in 1809. Whether Catherine was the same Catherine Wachtel who was the mother of Josiah Kershner b. 1801, I cannot guess. Please refer to the sketch on George Kershner Sr. b. ca. 1731. Peter and Catherine both died before 19 October 1847.

It may be that Philip Kershner b. ca. 1750 lived on this little farm in his old age with Peter and Catherine. Philip Kershner's inventory mentioned nothing but bedroom-type furniture, no cooking equipment or farming tools, and he did leave Peter, and, specifically, Catherine, a lifetime interest in the farm.

Isaac Kershner was born in Pennsylvania, 1782, according to descendants. This is the year his grandfather, Martin Kershner b. ca. 1713, died in Berks County, Pennsylvania. Isaac married in Washington Co. Md., 22 February 1805, Eve Startzman. With his brother Jonathan, Isaac took over management of the Philip Kershner farm, and Isaac served as executor for the estate of their mother, Christiana. Please see Mary Maxwell's sketch of their migration and descendants.

Mary (Polly) Kershner married 10 May 1809, her first cousin, Jacob Kershner b. 1777 Pa., son of Peter Kershner b. 1747 Pa. At first, he identified himself as "of Peter", then as Jacob P. Kershner of Peter, and also as Jacob P. Kershner. Probate records of Berks Co. Pa., 15 July 1816, are quoted as saying "Jacob Kershner of Conoject Hundred, Maryland, son and heir of Peter Kershner of Bern Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, received his legacy from John Kershner 15 July 1816 and from Philip Kershner 16 September 1817".

Jacob Kershner of Peter did some land trading in Washington Co. Md. On 1 July 1809, he paid £ 2170 for 310 acres bought from John McPherson (T:422), and on 24 June 1809, £ 395 for 63 acres from Launcelot Jacques, (T:424).

He, "Jacob P. Kershner of Washington County, son of Peter", conveyed, on 23 February 1811, all or part of this to Daniel Kershner, "late of Berks County Pennsylvania". Daniel paid £ 951.10.0 for "part of Kindness Enlarged sold to Jacob by John McPherson, Denton Jacques, Elie Williams, and Launcelot Jacques" and Mary, Jacob Kershner's wife, relinquished her dower rights. (W:403)

A couple of months later, Daniel Kershner, now of Alsace Township, Berks County Pennsylvania, resold it to Jacob K. Boyer of Reading County Pennsylvania, and acknowledged it in Berks County. Magdalena Kershner relinquished her dower in sd. land.

According to D.A.R. records of Rev. Lt. Peter Kershner b. 1747, his son Daniel, b. 11 February 1787, married Magdalena Schlatter. We think Jacob Kershner of Peter sold the land to his brother, Daniel b. 1787.

Peter Kershner's 1809 Will mentions the children of his deceased daughter Catherine, and names their father, George Zacharias, guardian of Catherine, Elizabeth, Peter and Daniel. George Zacharias was living in Washington County Maryland in 18[illegible], for he was there administrator of the estate of his brother-in-law Jonathan Kershner, which consisted mainly of a payment by Jacob P. Kershner. Records of three Jonathan Kershners are sorted out in the sketch on Jonathan Kershner b. ca. 1750 (q.v.). See also "The Pennsylvania Connection".

The Zacharias family was prominent at St. Paul's. The following quotation from the bicentennial publication (1947) of that church speaks of the pastorate of Rev. Jonathan Rauhauser, who served St. Paul's as well as Salem and other Reformed congregations.

"According to newspaper correspondence by Rev. Daniel Zacharias, the Rev. Rahauser did not come until 1795, before the stone church had been quite finished. To Dr. Zacharias of Frederick County, St. Paul's was a sacred spot. Here his father worshipped at a period when there was no other church within eleven miles, and his mother was buried in St. Paul's graveyard. When the church was built there was no...bridge across the Conococheague which might be used at high water. Mr. Rahauser was hence more than once exposed to accident or death by ferrying the stream at 'Kershner's Ford', when the surging waters rolled through his vehicle. Dr. Zacharias, in his memoirs, says...'On such occasions we used to look with unusual anxiety for the top of his carriage...He received a drenching ...contracted a severe cold which caused his death...in 1817."

From this we gather that Dr. Daniel Zacharias, whose mother was buried at St. Paul's, personally watched Pastor Rahauser cross the ford prior to 1817. This does rather fit Daniel, child of Catherine Kershner who died prior to 1809, and of her husband George Zacharias who was in Washington County in 1816. Catherine's brother, Jacob of Peter, died by 1849.

John Kershner's birth was recorded at Salem 29 September 1788. We have not researched him, but he was on the lists of 1813, 1825, 1826, and 1839, and in 1849 his heirs were legatees. None of the distribution accounts gave the places of residence.

Jonathan Kershner, b. 1 April 1791, took over the Philip Kershner farm in 1828 with his brother Isaac. He may have married Catherine Miller 25 April 1820. He was on all the distribution lists, and Peter's estate accounts, 31 January 1849, listed five judgments and costs of Johnathan Kershner in favor of Peter Kershner dec'd.

Indexed in Deed Book HH:420 , 1825, is a Bill of Sale from Alexander Neill to Jonathan Kershner.

The LDS film of Zion/St. Paul's baptisms lists, for Jonathan Kershner and Catherine, birthdates of these children:

p. 83 Luisa Maria 6 August 1821
p. 90 Lucretia, 27 December 1822
p. 93 Ann Rebecca, 5 October 1824

and the Williamsport Evangelical Congregation (Greenawalt)

p.49 Harrison, b. 6 October 1840, baptized 11 February 1841

The Washington Co. Md. census of 1850 (sent by Mary K. Maxwell):

District No. 1

2648/2736	Jon° Keershner	59	farmer	$9500	b. Md.
	Wm Creary	23	laborer		
	Priscilla Hanley	28	black		

Elizabeth Kershner b. 31 March 1793 married, 31 October 1816, Samuel Heller in Washington County. Their daughter Rosina Elizabeth was born 10 April 1817, and sponsored in baptism 11 June 1817 by Anamaria Kershner. Christiana Kershner stated in her Will in 1825 that she, (Elizabeth) and her sister Polly were "of New York State". Sam'l Heller and wife shared in the 1849 distribution of Philip Kershner's estate.

Martin Kershner b. 15 June 1795 we have not followed. He shared in all distributions through 1849.

Daniel Kershner b. 21 April 1798 married, 12 July 1823 in Washington County, Nancy Westenbarger, 1802-1881. Deeds HH:385, dated 6 May 1825, name Daniel Kershner and wife Nancy and others as heirs of David Westenbarger dec'd. Daniel shared in all the distributions and was executor for his father, Philip Kershner b. ca. 1750, and brother, Peter Kershner, who died intestate by 19 October 1847 (Accounts 15:375). Daniel Kershner b. 1798 continued to live in Washington County, and, with his family, is buried at Salem Church. Douglas D. Woodard sent this 1850 census note:

Daniel Kearshner	52 farmer	$9000	b. Md.
Nancy	48		b. Md.
David	25		b. Md.
Susan R.	23		b. Md
Nancy	17		b. Md
Martin	14		b. Md.

Salem Cemetary records give these dates:

Daniel Kershner b. 21 April 1798 d. 23 August 1851
Nancy Kershner b. 9 May 1802 d. 1 June 1881
David Kershner b. 19 September 1824, d. 7 June 1904
Nancy Kershner b. 21 May 1833, d. 13 August 1851
Martin L. Kershner b. 5 November 1830, d. 10 Jan 1898

In the settlement of Daniel Kershner's Estate (Accounts 18:121), his administrators, David Kershner and John E. Johnson, listed:

Heirs:	Nancy Kershner	the widow 1/3	$145.20
	David Kershner	1/3 of 2/3	98.84 3/9
	Susan R. Johnson	wife of John E.Johnson	98.84 3/9
	Martin Kershner		98.84 3/9

Obviously, this was the proceeds of the sale of personal estate. He listed $9000 in assets in 1850.

David Kershner b. 27 November 1800 was named in the 1813 deed and the 1815 suit. He was not mentioned in Christiana Kershner's 1825 Will, though she referred to her "living children". It can be assumed David died, probably before reaching his majority.