

LINVILLE ROOTS

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USING LAND RECORDS TO CLARIFY LINVILLE RELATIONSHIPS

Researchers often use deeds to solve genealogical problems. One of the parts of a deed is the description of the property. While the relationship between the people involved may not be clearly specified in any document, tracing who lived on a piece of land over the course of time can provide clues to relationships and, in some cases, when combined with laws in the area, actually determine relationships.

We have already seen that the ownership of North Northlands, the Linvill/Wickersham home in Fletching Parish, Sussex County, England ("Linville Roots," Vol. 3, Nos. 1 and 2] helped to determine the female relatives and ancestors of Richard Linvill. In the past three years, I have concentrated on two pieces of land - one in Pennsylvania and one in Virginia - trying to trace the ownership to either prove or disprove Linville relationships and some oral history. In this issue, the Virginia problem will be the focus. The next issue discusses the Pennsylvania one. There were actually two separate problems in Virginia, and despite the apparent geographic distances, they actually became the same problem AND the discoveries added substantially to the Pennsylvania problem.

PROBLEM #1

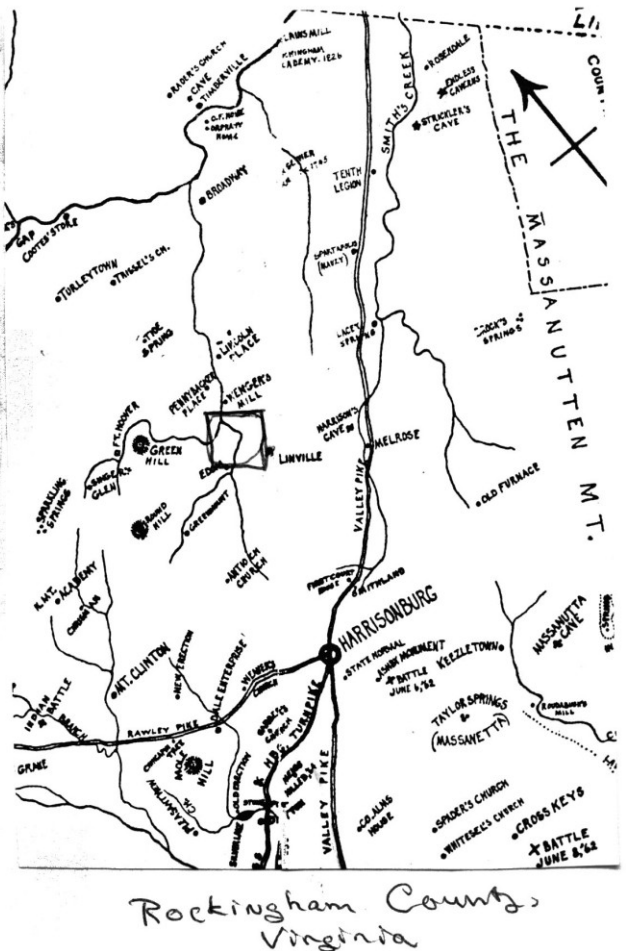
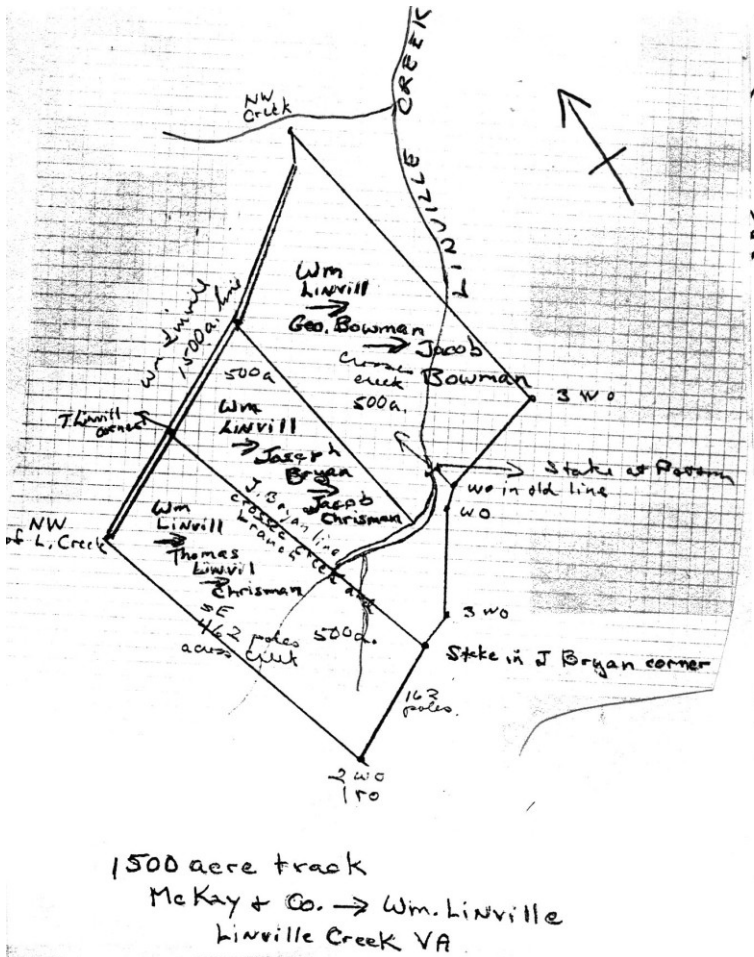
WHO OWNED THE LINVILLE LAND IN VIRGINIA BETWEEN 1747-1787

In conjunction with the Five Generation Project (see - "Linville Roots," Vol. 4, No. 1) I have continued to work on a Virginia land problem. The goal was to determine who lived on or near the Linville's 1500 acres on Linville Creek, now Rockingham County, Virginia after brothers Thomas and William Linville (sons of the immigrant John *LFA* pp. 79-85) sold their land to George Bowman, Joseph Bryan and Jacob Chrisman and left in 1746-7 for North Carolina. The name Linville does not appear in any records in that place after that date for another 40 years until Benjamin (son of Joseph of Berks County, Pennsylvania *LFA* p. 14-19) appears in the 1787 tax list for that region. I wanted to see whether there is any explanation for Dr. D. G. Linvill's oral history (*LFA* p. 408) which says that his ancestor Benjamin Linville, who would have been William and Thomas' first cousin, settled on the

same land as his "ancestors." In LFA, I indicated that the story published by Dr. Linvill has a number of inaccuracies, but with most oral history there may be a grain of truth. I was hoping to find that grain of truth, thinking that the truth might produce a fuller picture of the family by filling in some of the female lines. Land was not always passed down through sons, but women also received land from their fathers which became the property of their husbands and consequently a piece of land may be held in the same family, but not by the same surname. I reasoned that if I could trace who lived on the 1500 acre track after the Linvilles and before Benjamin moved to the vicinity, I might find more about the female lines in the family. We don't know, for example, the full names of Thomas's wife Hannah or Joseph's wife, possibly a Mulligan (Millican??) (see LFA p. 13).

LINVILLE LOTS ON LINVILLE CREEK
(Virginia)

MAP OF LOCATIONS IN ROCKINGHAM COUNTY
(Virginia)



Unfortunately, many of the records in Rockingham County were burned or lost during the Civil War. This makes tracing the land ownership directly impossible. There is no extant record of Benjamin Linville owning land in the county, although from the work I was able to do with remaining survey books and court records, I could tell that at least both sets of Linvilles did live in the same area. Even historical maps of the area mark Edom and Pennybacker's Mill on Linville Creek, which is the area Dr. D. G. Linvill gives for the location of the 500 acres on which his grandparents Benjamin and Ann (Matthews) Linvill lived. First, we need to establish the location of the three 500-acre lots which Thomas and William (sons of John, the immigrant) lived on (1736-1747) and owned in 1746-7. They had to be placed in the bigger context of the McKay and Hite grant of 7009 acres the received from Colonial Virginia, including the 1500 acres the Linvilles were on. Then, we have to look at where it is that Dr. Linvill said his grandparents lived. We don't know which one of the three lots he might have meant, but it is true that both the town of Edom, site of the three lots, and Pennybacker's Mill are not far apart. However, it seems only coincidental that Benjamin Linvill ended up in the same place as his father (Joseph's) cousins. Because of space considerations, I have indicated only the 1500 acres and not the rest of the Linville Creek lots (#1-#10), running down the creek to the North Branch of the Shenandoah River, comprising the 7009 Hite and McKay grant. Benjamin's impetus for moving may have been through his wife's parents, the Matthews, who owned an iron mine nearby.

PROBLEM #2

WHERE DID PETER LINVILLE LIVE IN VIRGINIA?

Readers of "Linville Roots" know that for several years, I have been trying to work on the problem of Peter Linville's parents. Although born in 1750, according to his grave stone in Cross Creek Cemetery, Washington County, PA, his place of birth is not known. No probate, court and land records have provided any clues as to his ancestry. To try to find a location for his life before 1774, I have been trying to identify where a group of men lived who served with Peter Linville on the frontier (now the vicinity of Pittsburgh) in Lord Dunmore's War in 1774. I felt that if I could define a geographic location for these men in 1774, then perhaps other documents or information might become enlightening as to Peter's origins.

Let's look first at the men associated with Peter Linville in Lord Dunmore's War:

Capt. Peter Helphinston's Roll

[see Bockstruck, Lloyd D. *Virginia's Colonial Soldiers*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1988, pp. 138-9 - copies of originals, found at the Virginia State Archives, in my possession.]

Over seventy men were listed on Helphinston's Roll for Lord Dunmore's war - Peter Lenville(sic) one of them. Using the published list of taxpayer's in Virginia counties for 1787 (Schreiner-Yantis, Netti and Florence Speakman Love, *Personal Property Tax Lists for the year 1787 for Frederick County, Virginia*, Springfield, Va.: Genealogical Books in Print, 1987), more than ten years after this unit was formed, I checked the Shenandoah Valley counties for some location where the same surnames appeared. The surnames of Helphinstone, Nisewanger, Snap, Seechrist, Stringling, Poker, Cackley, Acre were among the less common names on the Helphinston Roll - Stephens, Wilson, Miers, Vance, a little more common. But they all appeared in what is presently Frederick County, Virginia. Despite the ten years since the unit was formed and the mobility of the population up and down the Shenandoah Wagon Road, finding so many names in one location made this area an obvious point of focus for the research.

To pinpoint these families further, I obtained the deed abstracts for the Frederick County, 1743-1763; abstracts of the Northern Neck Land Grants, 1742-1775; and the warrants and surveys for the Northern Neck counties, 1747-1780. I tracked the land records for each of these families and those for the Baldwins [Mary (Hart) Linvill Baldwin's other children] to try and find the community in which these families were living before 1774. This was tedious, time-consuming work. Then two important pieces of information came my way - one by mail and one by phone.

William J. Hunter, of Ottawa, Ontario, who is a descendant of Moses Linville (b.c. 1760, probable son of Richard - *LFA* p.116) had been corresponding with me about a number of allied lines (Bowman - Hunter) which also came down the Shenandoah Wagon Road moved eventually to Tennessee and, later, Oregon. In June 1990, he wrote enclosing a most tantalizing piece of information he had seen about the early settlement of the Shenandoah Valley.

Hunter had enclosed a couple of pages from Henry Z Jones, Jr., Ralph Connor and Klaus Wust's booklet entitled, *German Origins of Jost Hite, Virginia Pioneer, 1685-1761* (Edinburg, Va.: Shenandoah History Publishers, n.d.). I had only known that Jost Hite was the initial

"legal" owner of the 7009 acre grant from which Thomas and William Linvill's 1500 acres were carved. A chart in the booklet outlined the baptisms of the Hite children and those of the Bowmans (Bauman) and Chrismans as published in F.G.F. Schantz, *Records of Rev. John Casper Stoever: Baptismal and Marriage, 1730-1779* (Harrisburg, Pa., 1896). One of them was:

p. 34

Baptized		Date of Birth	Father	Godparents
1736 2 May	Emma Maria	9 Nov 1735	George Baumann	John Leenviel & wife Anna Christina

I had previously seen family material on the Chrismans and Hites, but it had not suggested anything but a business association with the Linvilles, all involving the land in Linville, Virginia. As we have seen above, William and Thomas Linville, sons of John, the immigrant, sold their Linville, Virginia land in the 1747 to George Bowman and Jacob Chrisman. The Pennsylvania land problem I had been working on involved a John and Ann Linville selling 126 acres of the 200 acres of John, the immigrant's, Linville lot in Conestoga, Pennsylvania in October 1733. However, no information about a John with an Ann had previously been found in Pennsylvania or Virginia. And there was no concrete evidence about the origin of Ann or whether the John who sold that land was the immigrant or his possible son, and therefore the third brother to William and Thomas. This is the Pennsylvania land problem that will be the focus of the next issue of "Linville Roots."

Although Rev. Stoever traveled widely on the Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia frontiers, his major location in Virginia was considerably north of Linville, Virginia, and around the Opequon Creek area near present-day Middletown, Virginia and Winchester, West Virginia, closer to William Linville's father-in-law, Morgan Bryan's 1734 settlement on Mill Creek.

In 1989 I had not seen the original records of Stoever's, which were, then, only available on microfilm at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. I obtained the printed version, *Early Lutheran Baptisms and Marriages in Southeastern Pennsylvania* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1988). I suspected there were problems with the German translation. But the printed version reads:

p. 9 George Bauman (Opequon) -

Bauman, Emma Marie, b. Nov., 9, 1735; bap. May 2, 1737. Sponsors, John Leewill and his spouse, Anna Christina **Stephan** (emphasis added)

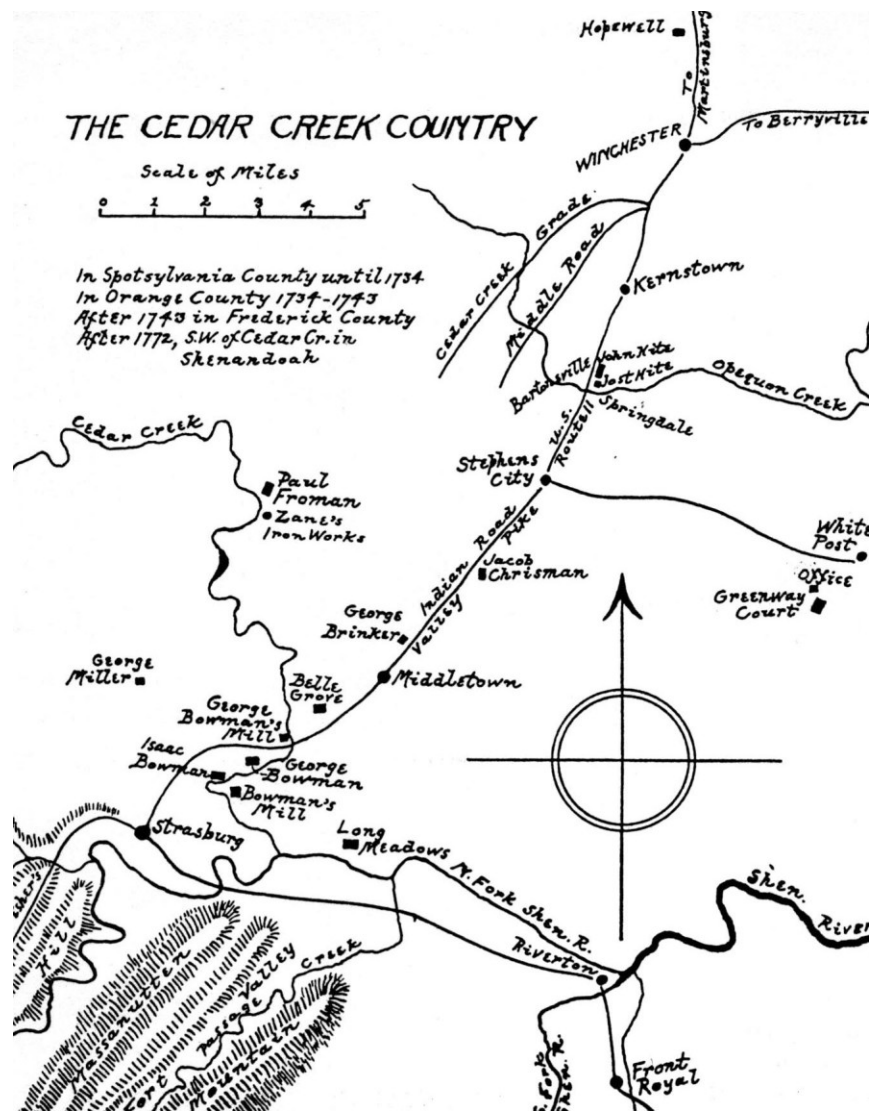
P. 12 John Leenwill (Shenandoah) -

Leenwill, Lewis, b. Feb. 20, 1737; bap. June 7, 1737. Testis, Stephen Lewis(sic - Lewis Stephens)

There were Lewis families living on Mill Creek in Morgan Bryan's settlement, but I have not found a Stephen Lewis. Clearly, the name was switched because from several other sources, Lewis Stephens was the son of Peter Stephens, neighbor to the Chrismans, Bowmans and Hites in the settlements around Cedar Creek. All four families were intricately involved in the baptisms of children, and buying and selling of land. There was some speculation in *LFA* - Chapter 14 as to the origins of John Linville who, according to a land survey, owned land on the Enoree River in South Carolina in 1749; an Ann Linville who died in Abbeville district, South Carolina in 1785; and a Lewis Linville who appears on the 1800 census of Newberry, South Carolina as over 45 and apparently is the one who died in 1822 in Laurens County, South Carolina. The information from Stoevers' records appears to shed light on where these South Carolina Linvilles originated. This is the only record found of John Linville in Virginia found so far. There are no land, court or probate records in Augusta or Frederick counties mentioning him. Let's move to the second piece of information that came by phone call [See also, "Linville Roots," Vol. 6].

I have been teaching psychology and family history to adults since 1983 at Vermont College. The students come from all over the country, and indeed world, bringing with them a rich background and experience with which to work in independent study for their B.A. degree. As you might suspect, whenever I do family history presentations to my students I often use my own family research as illustrations. Consequently, most of my students know about my "Linvilles." Shortly after the mail from Bill Hunter, one of my former students, Marcia Mitchell, from Virginia Beach, called to say that she and her husband had just been on a visit to "Belle Grove," the site of their wedding in Middletown, Virginia. The plantation had been the home of one of her ancestors, Isaac Hite, a descendant of Jost Hite. As an historic landmark for the Civil War Battle of Cedar Creek, the plantation had a bookstore related to local history and families. Marcia had bought a copy of John W. Wayland's, *The Bowmans: A Pioneering Family in Virginia, Kentucky and the Northwest Territory* (Harrisonburg, VA: C. J. Carrier Co., 1943, 1986). She had noticed some information about the Bowman's living on Linville Creek and wondered if I knew about this.

The book made it clear that the George Bowman, father of Emma Marie (later called Mary) baptized in 1737 with sponsors John and Anna Christina [Stephens] Linville), owned land on Cedar Creek, Virginia. He was the same person who was a neighbor of Jacob Chrisman, Jost Hite, and Peter and Lewis Stephens who had settled Stephens City (formerly Stephensburg), located halfway between Bowman's place and Jost Hite's original 1731 settlement. The map from p. 5 of that book illustrates the locations.



In addition, p. 2-3 of the Bowman book states that Emma Marie (Mary) Bowman later became the wife of Lewis Stephens, but Wayland is incorrect. Lewis Stephens' wife was a Mary, but not Mary Bowman. Mary Bowman was actually the wife of Lewis' brother Lawrence Bowman as verified by the Stephens and Bowman family wills recorded in Frederick County (2: 266; 3: 431; 4: 338; 8:198). Putting together the information from both books, it becomes obvious that Emma Marie (Bowman) Stephens is the child for whom John and Anna Christina (Stephens) Linville were sponsors at her baptism in 1737. This Mary (Bowman) Stephens' mother was Mary (Hite) Bowman, daughter of Jost Hite.

George Bowman's 1764 will makes it clear that he is, also, the same George Bowman who bought William Linville's land on Linville Creek, more than 50 miles south along the Shenandoah River and the "Great

Wagon Road," now U.S. Route 11. He left the Linville lot to son Jacob Bowman who, as a resident of South Carolina, sold it in 1768 (Augusta Deeds 15:161). Another tract on Linville Creek (Lot #8) which George Bowman had bought from Jost Hite, had been left to John Bowman, Jacob's brother. This Lot #8 was sold to Abraham Miller (Augusta Deeds 15:151) in 1768 just days before John Lincoln from Pennsylvania, grandfather of Abraham Lincoln, bought Lot #9 which lies between the Linvill former 1500 acres on the southwest and the Bowman-Miller lot on the northeast. The Linvill lot sold to Joseph Bryan, son of William and brother to Ellender (Bryan) Linville, was the place that Squire Boone and family, including son Daniel Boone, stayed for about a year (1750-1) before moving to North Carolina. It would have been here on the Linvill lots that Daniel Boone met his future wife, Rebecca Bryan, whose mother or step-mother appears to have been Alice (probably) Linville and daughter of John Linville, the immigrant.

I eventually located a copy of Dan V. Stephens' revised edition of *Stephens Family Genealogies, 1690-1938* (Fremont, NE: Hammonds & Stephens Co., 1940) which contains a fairly well-documented version of the descendants of Peter Stephens (a drawing of him is included). From the material presented it was possible to clarify and correct the material in the Bowman and Hite records cited above. However, I have not looked at the original documents which Stephens cites to verify their accuracy.

Frontier families were so highly convoluted sometimes, that it is difficult to map out precise relationships in a format that makes them clear. What follows is an attempt to do that, although I have not included all children known for each couple, since to do so would have been a very extensive chart. What I am attempting to show here is a possibility within those relationships which could explain what we know about the date of Peter's birth; the family of John Linville, of Frederick County in 1792 and later Harrison County, WV; John and Ann Linville of Pennsylvania, Virginia and South Carolina; and Lewis Linville of South Carolina. It should be noted that given names often provide good clues for suggesting relationships, but the reason for a choice of given name is not always the male line of the family and without knowing the given names in the female line, some errors in speculation are likely to occur. "W," in the chart indicates that they left of will which verifies the information presented. "DB" indicates Deed Book.

Jost Hite (W)

1m. Anna Maria DuBois c. 1709

2m. Mary Magdalina (----) Nicewanger,
widow of Christian Nicewanger, 1741

d. 1761

Children: (numbers refer to birth order - line this page up with page 10 to see relationships and spouses)

1. Mary Hite m.c. 1731

b.c. 1710

d. after 1769

Children:

2. (John) Jacob Bowman

b. 2 Dec 1733

bap. 16 May 1735 at Opequon (sponsor Jacob Chrisman) received William Linvill's 500 acres on Linville Creek in father George Bowman's will 1768; resident of Ninety-Six District of South Carolina before 1767; possibly a Tory; believed to have been killed at Ramsour Mill, N.C., 20 June 1780.

George Bowman (W) of Cedar Creek and Linville Creek, VA

d. 1766 Frederick County, VA

m. _____

2m. ? Sarah _____

3. Emma Maria (Mary) Bowman _____ married. c. 1752 _____

b. 9 Nov. 1735

bap. 2 May 1737 at Opequon (sponsors John Linville and spouse Anna Christina Stephens)

d. Jan 1820 Frederick Co. VA

Northern Neck grants (H-196) indicate they were direct neighbors of Jacob Nicewanger, Jacob Chrisman in 1752 at Cedar Creek on the Great Wagon Road, originally patented to Jost Hite.

The wills of her father George Bowman (3: 431-4, 1764) and brother George Bowman (3:506-7, 1769) specify that her share of their estates be divided among her children and grandchildren. Mary Stephens was certainly still living at the time. It is not clear what this signifies about the relationships in the family between Mary and her husband Lawrence and the other Bowmans.

2. Magdalina Hite m.c.

b. 1708-9

Jacob Chrisman, of Chrisman's Spring, Frederick County, VA purchased Thomas Linvill and Joseph Bryan's land for a total of 1000 ac in Linville Creek. Sold the land in 1761 to sons George and John Chrisman, and Francis McBride.

Children:

3. Anna Maria Chrisman _____ married _____

b. 29 Sept 1735

bap. 2 May 1736 - same day as Emma Maria Bowman
(sponsor, "her mother")

Peter Stephens, Sr. (W 2: 266, 1757)

b. before 1690

?1m. _____

2m. Maria Christian Rittenhouse (marriages documented by tradition)

d. 1757 Frederick County, Virginia

Neighbor of Hites and Chrismans near Stephens City, VA

Children:

1. Lewis Stephens, Sr.

?2m 1743 Mary _____

b.c. 1713

d. 1805 Frederick County, VA

d.c. 1798 Frederick County, VA

Established Stephensburg about 1758 - selling many town lots to 1790.

Lived next to Col. John Nicewanger in 1784 (Frederick Deeds 20:301).

Suits in Chancery Court, Strump v. Shivertaker Frederick County Nov. 1797 include depositions dated 1774 stating Lewis Stephens, Sr. is "upwards of 60 years"; Lewis Stephens Jr. is upwards of 40 years. John Linville, of Frederick County, Virginia, married Elizabeth Shivertaker 23 Oct 1792 - see LFA p. 376. Jacob Shivertaker

Children: Peter Stephens m. Barbara Wilson (DB 14:188)

Lewis Stephens, Jr. m. Mary Hening

Mary Stephens m. Lewis Emmett

2. Lawrence Stephens (W 4: 338, 1776)

b. before 1723

m. c. 1745 (wife d. c. 1749)

2m. Mary Bowman

d. 1776

Frederick County Court records (Order Book 1:257) indicate that he was a German Protestant in Virginia over seven years (as of 1747), nor absent from the colony for more than two months at one time; had received the sacrament of the Lord's Supper from Rev. John Gordon and was consequently naturalized 4 August 1747. A John Gordon is identified on the same plat map in South Carolina as "path to John Linvel". Could this be the same John Gordon? In 1749 Lawrence served as constable (OB 3:202); witnessed a deed in 1753 (DB 3:32); and is referenced (DB 4:31) in 1755 as having property adjacent to Peter Stephens Sr. and Jr. His will clarifies that, in addition to two city lots and a plantation on the outskirts of Stephens City, he owned land on Crooked Run, which drains into Cedar Creek. George Bowman also owned adjacent land.

Children: 1m. Peter, John, 2m. George William, Mary, Sarah m.

_____ Bowman, Adam, Jacob, Isaac, Joseph Lawrence, Bryan Martin

3. Peter Stephens

b. before 1732

d. 1812 Montgomery County, Va. - moved there in 1767.

Why was Jacob Bowman in South Carolina in the same vicinity as John Linville? When did Jacob get there? who was Lewis Stephens' second wife Mary? How was Lewis Stephens related to Ann Christina (Stephens) Linville - sister? aunt? Could Peter Linville have been born in South Carolina? Are the Bowman and Stephens families the origin of the given names of Peter, Lewis and Jacob in the Linville families of Peter Linville of Washington County, Pennsylvania, Lewis Linville of Laurens County, South Carolina and John Linville who married Elizabeth Shivertaker in Frederick County, Virginia? Exploring these questions I feel sure will lead to some of the most concrete evidence to date to fill in a missing generation of Linvilles.

There is still a considerable amount of work that needs to be done, but without easy access to the records, it has been a slow process. Cady and I traveled down the Shenandoah several times over the last decade, stopping at court houses and visiting the Cedar Creek settlement. I find it easier to get a feeling for a problem if I have visited the location. One gets a strong impression of families leapfrogging down the Shenandoah Valley.



I, now, need to know more now about those who settled with Peter Linville in Washington County, Pennsylvania and to see who else is in the tax lists with him and the companies in which a William Linville served from Washington County in the Revolutionary War. Could he be the same one who eventually signed up in Frederick County to fight in Georgia? I need to know more about the earliest settlements along the Enoree River in South Carolina. My speculation is that either the families of Jacob Bowman or Lewis Stephens, Sr. may hold an explanation for why there were young men in Frederick County between 1750-1774 with the surname of Linville, without any clear information about a possible father and mother for them living in the same place. Even with the added information about John and Anna Christina (Stephens) Linville, being of childbearing age in 1737, there is still a generation missing to explain all the other known facts. If Anna Christina stayed in South Carolina until her death in 1785, then why would her children have been raised by relatives in Frederick County, Virginia?

Consider this: John and Ann in Pennsylvania were clearly married by 1733 when they sold what must have been all but a third of immigrant John Linville's 200 acres in Pennsylvania. Are they the same couple - John and Anna Christina - who had a child in 1737? It seems unlikely that John who married Anna Christina Stephens is the immigrant, since that John would have been over 60 years old. If Lewis Linville was born in 1737, but Peter wasn't born until 1750 and the William who served, in the Revolution in Georgia, not until 1757, that is over 25 years of childbearing. If the William Linville in Washington County with Peter isn't the same as the one in Georgia they couldn't have had the same parents. If Lewis Linville in the 1800 census in South Carolina is the same as the one born in 1737, what accounts for the birth of a child to him in 1806, when he would have been nearly 70? Is the Lewis Linville in 1800 a son of the one born in 1737? John Linville who married Elizabeth Shivertaker in Frederick County, was probably born before 1765, but again, is there too much difference in ages for him to have been Lewis Linville's, born 1737, brother?

As I said, convolution is the mainstay of early colonial families on the frontier!

REUNION IN 1992????

Paul and Peg Linvill have set aside the weekend of Aug. 14-16, 1992 for us to have a national reunion at Linvilla Orchards in Media, Pennsylvania.

Subsequent errata from this original publication:

p. 8 - "Frontier family were so highly convoluted..." Please add to your thinking step-parent potential relationships. Also, life span today is much longer than in the past.

p. 9-10 For clarity:

Anna Maria (Mary) Bowman m. Lawrence Stephens

Anna Maria Chrisman m. Peter Stephens