

copy

A STUDY OF SOME OF THE ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON TREECE

This research of the *TREECE FAMILY* goes back to approximately 1685 when *ANNA MARIA DRIES* was born in Germany. Her maiden name is not known as is her husband's first name.

In 1733, Anna, her husband, and their seven children, Barbara Elizabeth, Andrew, Cornelius, *Peter*, Johann Adam, Maria Barbara, and Anna Maria, traveled the Rhine River to Rotterdam where they boarded the *PINK MARY OF DUBLIN* for the long journey to Plymouth, England and then onto the United States.

One of the most difficult feats is to establish the German Home of an American settler in Colonial times. Unless a bible record, letters, diaries, and other contemporary documents have survived that will identify the town in Germany whence the family came, it is impossible to know where to begin the search. I have found a small town in Germany west of Koblenz named *DREIS*. This is in the Rhineland Palatinate where Anna is listed as having come from.

Thousands of those who started for America from Amsterdam and Rotterdam between the years 1700 and 1750 never reached America, but died at sea and were buried in it's waters. It has been reported that Anna's husband was such a person. It is wholly likely that out of nearly 45,000 to 50,000 immigrants who set sail for America in that time, 15,000 to 20,000 of them died on the voyage by diseases, hardships, and exposure.

From about the year 1726 onward it was the law that all immigrants into Pennsylvania who were not subject to Great Britain and Ireland were compelled to be registered, and their names, dates of arrivals, and the ships in which they arrived on were all taken down and preserved. It was on this list, the (Pennsylvania German Pioneers by Strassburger and Hinke: Pg. 121,

123, 130-135) that I found *Anna* and her family listed as Palatines arriving on the *Pink Mary of Dublin* with James Benn, the ships master, from Rotterdam. The passenger list included fifty-five males above sixteen, thirty-seven females, thirty males under sixteen, forty-nine females--in all 171. The ship landed on September 29, 1733 at the port of Philadelphia. It should be noted here that the term "Pink", is a type, and not a color of the ship.

When an individual in the 18th century wished to emigrate to America or elsewhere, he applied to his ruler for permission to leave the country, and paid a stipulated fee in order to obtain his manumission, (i.e. freedom) from his feudal obligations. The manumission document identified his home in Germany and gave particulars about him, his family, and his property.

The Dries family could not speak any English so upon arrival and giving their names to the clerk, he would post it as it sounded to him. Anna and her children would then sign with an "X". I have an actual copy of the signing of their oaths to the government. It should be noted that Peter's name was spelled many ways (i.e. DRIES, DREIS, DREASE, DREESE, TREAS, TREESE) etc.

Of Anna's children, we shall follow *PETER* who was born ca 1716 in Germany and died in 1773 in Philadelphia. He married Anna Margaret who was born in 1721 and died in 1778 at Philadelphia. Peter's will was dated 1769 or 1773. Peter, like his mother, was a Reformed Lutheran and the 1st Ref. Church of Philadelphia and St. Michael's Zion Church has record of him. The Philadelphia County Probate Index F1832 for 1773 #24 BK P P 351 is where his will can be found.

Peter had six children; Peter, *JOHANN JACOB*, Daniel, Johann Michael, Elizabeth, and Christiana.

Of Peter's children, we shall follow *JOHANN JACOB* for our Treece line. Jacob was born May 13, 1750 in Philadelphia and died in 1811 at Rowan Co., North Carolina. Jacob's wife's name was Margaret Magdalena (one or both). One royal governor considered North Carolina to be an inviting frontier, beckoning the discontented, the ambitious, or the crowded young people up and down the Atlantic seaboard, to come and start a new life. These Carolina settlers sometimes had stronger attachments to other colonies than they did to Great Britain or to some country in Europe, but as often as not, they had no strong feelings of devotion or loyalty to any place at all. They may be counted Americans more than Pennsylvanians, the Colony from which many came, or North Carolinians. Daniel Boone blazed trails through mountain passes and led these early settlers. He was also from Pennsylvania and moved to North Carolina. Later you will see Jacob's sons follow his lead into Tennessee, and Kentucky. Jacob probably left Pennsylvania for North Carolina before the Revolutionary War.

Jacob had nine children; John, Peter, *HENRY*, Daniel, Jacob, George, Catherine, Elizabeth, and Magdelon. This family lived on a 294 acre farm south of Salisbury, North Carolina on Rowan County's southern line. He left this farm to his children in a will in February, 1811.

Of these nine children of Jacobs' we shall follow *HENRY*, who was born in 1781 at Salisbury, North Carolina. Henry married Elizabeth Kaylor in 1805 and died in 1859 in Tippah County, Mississippi. Henry left North Carolina about the year 1817 for Greenfield, Indiana.

Henry and Elizabeth had six children; Sophia, Elizabeth, *JOHN LEWIS GREENFIELD*, Jacob, Mary, and William. Sophia and Elizabeth were born in North Carolina in 1812 and 1813. About 1817, Henry moved westward near Indianapolis, Indiana where *JOHN LEWIS GREENFIELD* was born in 1818 and was named after Greenfield,

Indiana which is just east of Indianapolis. He then moved to Hickman County or McCracken County, Kentucky where Mary and William were born in 1824 and 1828. The 1815 Rowan County, North Carolina tax roll showed **Henry Treas** with 427 acres.

In about 1840, Henry moved to Tippah County, Mississippi and in 1841 a **Green Trease** was listed in the census. In 1858, Henry's estate was probated and the heirs sold the estate to **Valentine Treas**.

Of these six children we will follow **JOHN LEWIS GREENFIELD TREECE**. John Lewis married Mahaley Shelley in 1839, probably in Graves County, Kentucky. John and Mahaley had seven children. All were born in Tippah County, Mississippi, starting in 1840. These children were Hiriarn, Mary A.L.E., John, Sarah, Frances, **GEORGE WASHINGTON**, and Martha.

John and Mahaly were farmers and lived on a farm of 480 acres in the northern part of Tippah County, Miss. up until the Civil War. It is unclear how the war affected them, however it has been said that John was killed up in Tennessee. He might have been trying to make his way back to the North and safety or acting as a "gorilla" behind the lines. He was buried in April, 1863 in Southern Illinois. He probably had two sons with him when he was killed, Hiriarn and John. *John Lewis Greenfield's* farm was probated on December 16, 1867 in Tippah County and was divided among the five remaining children. **GEORGE** was only nine years old at this time. Speaking of **GEORGE**, we will follow him now in this line.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TREAS - TREECE, (the spelling of Treece from Treas was probably first used by George) was born on July 4, 1855 in N.W. rural Tippah County, Miss. He married Mary Isabell Dunn on November 11, 1874 in Ashland, (Benton Co.) Miss., and died in 1929 in Caruthersville, Missouri. He is buried at the Little Prairie Cemetery there. Mary Dunn was born June 11, 1862

and died in October of 1942. She is also buried at Caruthersville Mo. Her mothers maiden name was Renot. George was a farmer and Mary was a Nazerene preacher who frequently travelled across the Mississippi river to preach in Tennessee.

George and Mary had eight children; James Robert, Alice*, John Lewis, Charles, Mollie, Clyde, ^{VERMER} Julia, and Daniel Boone. All were born in Mississippi except the last three who were born in Caruthersville starting 1889.

Of the eight children, *JOHN LEWIS* will be the generation to be followed. John was born in Tippah County, Mississippi on October 25, 1879, and married Trummie Grace New in Tipton County, Tennessee on June 21, 1902. He died on April 13, 1939, by falling from a wagon. John is buried in the Maple Cemetery at Caruthersville, Mo.

John was a cotton farmer and lived with his family south of the town of Caruthersville, Mo. Farm life must have been fun with eleven children (four others died). The surviving children were; Samuel, Ina, Daniel, Amos, Harry, Edna, Hosea, Christine, Marcella, Norma, and Helen. Sadie died at a very young age and three others died at birth, including a set of twins.

From the eleven surviving children, *DANIEL* will be the next branch to follow. Daniel was born on October 10, 1909 in Caruthersville Mo. He married Elsie Lee Duncan on November 9, 1933. She was born on August 25, 1913 in Tiptonville, Tenn. and died on August 16, 1993 at Lapeer Michigan. She is interred at the Ottawa Park Cemetery in Clarkston Michigan.

Daniel left the farm in Missouri in the 1920's for the life of an auto worker in the north, at Pontiac, Michigan. He worked at Fisher Body and later at the GMC Truck plant on security. He retired with 42 years service and is now 85 years young, living in Lapeer, Michigan at this writing.

Daniel and Elsie had eight children who are: Anita, Marvin, James, Charles, Joan, Paula, Floyd, and Linda. All of these

*Alice Jane Treece, wife of William Wilson Cunningham and mother of Mary, George (Jack), Ester, Joseph Lutten, and Paul (Snooks), and Ruth.

children were born in Pontiac, Michigan.

Daniel was an avid hunter, fisherman, and comedian who always thought his jokes were funnier than most other people did.

From these eight children, the lineage of *CHARLES* will be followed.

Charles was born on June 27, 1939 in Pontiac Michigan, 206 years after his ancestors set foot in Pennsylvania.

Charles grew up on Pontiacs' north side on Parkdale St, graduated from Pontiac Central High School and the Pontiac Motor Trade School as a toolmaker. He then went on to be an Industrial Engineer who was instrumental in selling the old Oakland Motor Car building in Pontiac, and also in locating the new Orion Plant of GM in Orion township. He retired in 1988 and lives with his wife Bernadette (Amman-Spurgeon) in Lapeer, Michigan. He is currently a City Commissioner in that city.

Charles was married to Sharon Frink on June 15, 1964 and had one son, Jon David. He later married Bernadette Spurgeon (Amman) on March 11, 1971. He gained four daughters in the bargain who were; Deborah, Vickie, Kay, and Marie. They had four more children; Jennifer, Rene', Timothy, and Steven. Steven is the youngest of the line of Treece's on this branch at nine years old.

For further information, write or call:

Charles D. Treece
136 Washington
Lapeer, MI 48446
(810) 664-5843