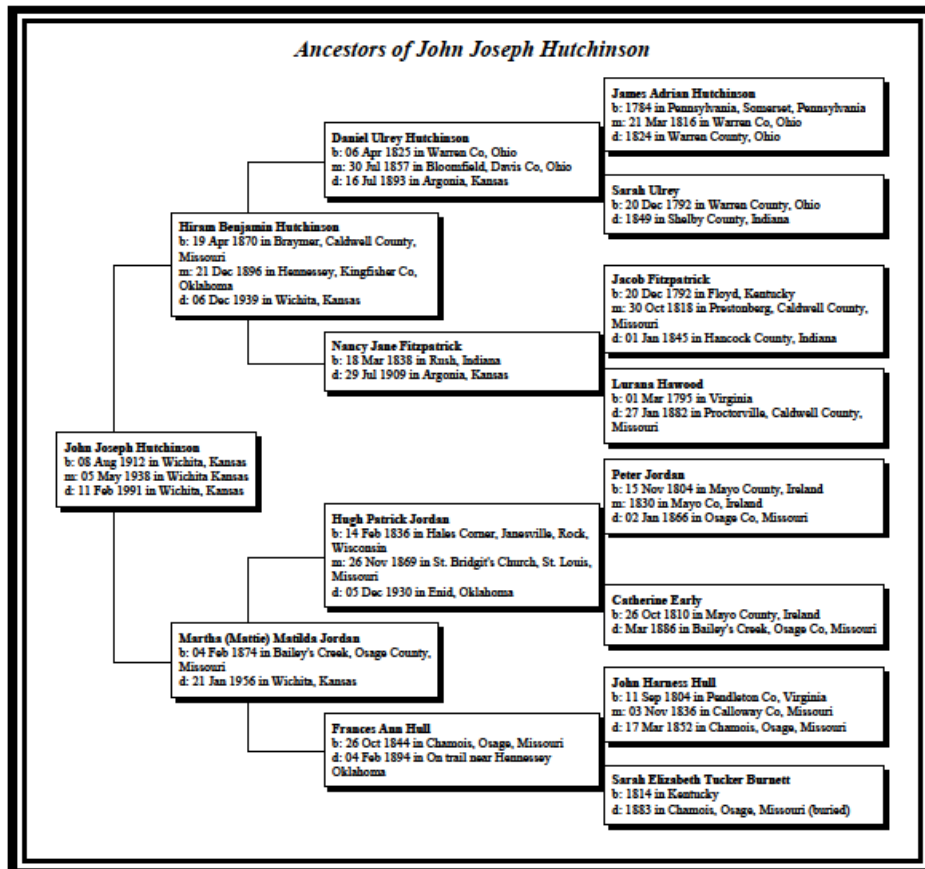


Dieffenbach Harness Hull to Hutchinson

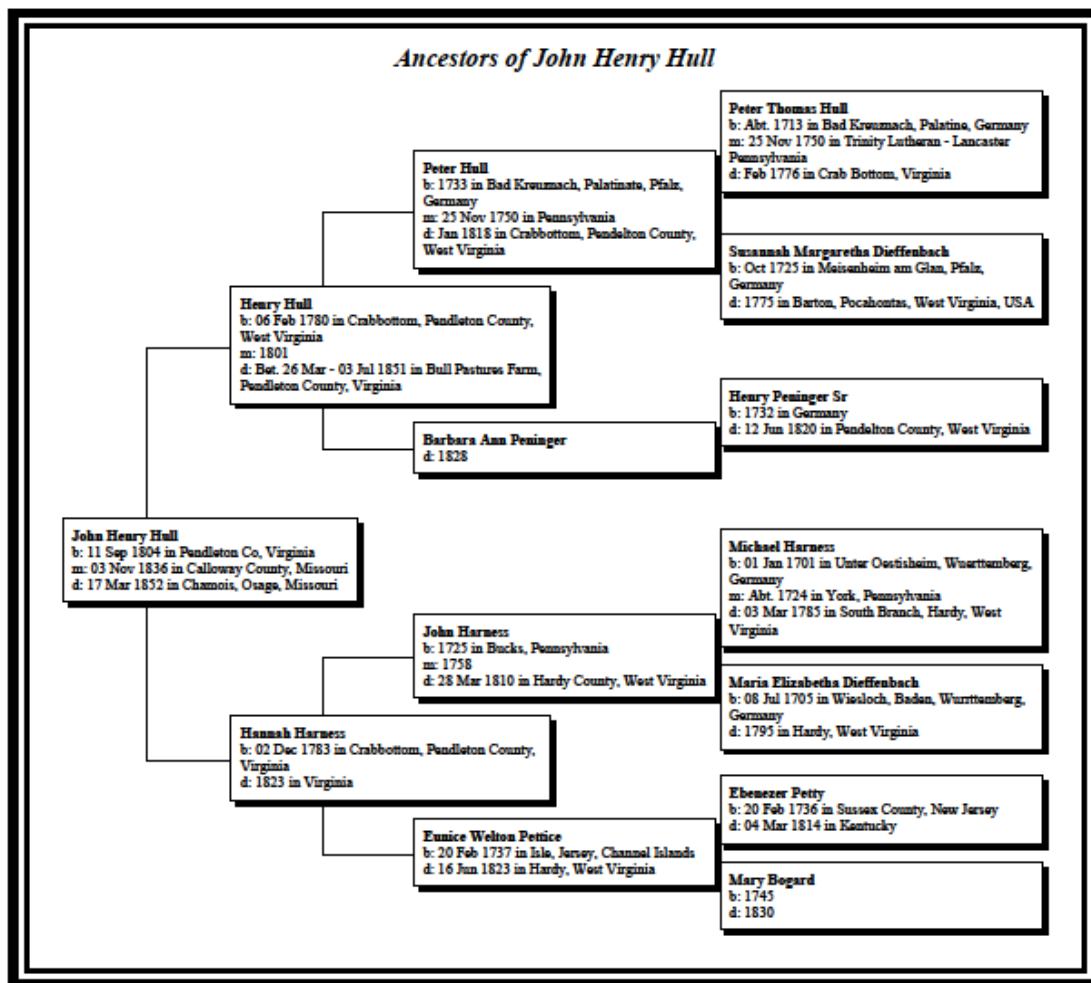
Compiled by John Hutchinson
May 2020

This is the story of the Harness/Hull branch of the Hutchinson family. It is also the story of the German branch of the family. My great⁵ grandfather Johann Michael Ernst Hörner became Michael Harness and great⁵ grandfather Peter Thomas Hohl became Peter Thomas Hull. Below are three illustrations of this part of the tree starting with my father John Joseph Hutchinson.

Hutchinson to Hull



The Harness – Hull families came together when Henry Hull married Hannah Harness (his fourth cousin in the Dieffenbach line) in 1801 in Crabbottom, Pendleton County, Virginia now West Virginia. Henry and Hannah’s son John Harness Hull is my great² grandfather.



There are common ancestors in this line, namely Martin Dieffenbach and Maria Rubesamen. John Harness Hull is his own fourth cousin and I am my own ninth cousin in this line. In the next pages we will trace the descendants of Martin Dieffenbach and Maria Anna Barbara Rubesamen. The lines will split into two and then come back together at the marriage of Henry Hull and Hannah Harness. As the narrative moves through the generations and between the different family lines it is difficult to keep track of which is which. Their paths are also very similar. The following chart will assist in keeping track of their journeys from Germany to Chamois Missouri.

Martin Dieffenbach (1605-1674)
Maria Anna Barbara Rubesamon (1603-1638)

Wulf Heinrich Dieffenbach (1630-1706)

Johann Conrad Dieffenbach (1634-1703)
Anna Mather (1630-1714)

Johann Martin Dieffenbach (1679-1716)
Anna Elizabeth Spiess (1697-1753)

Johann Conrad Dieffenbach (1659-1738)
Maria Barbara Christler (1760-1737)

Susannah Margaretha Dieffenbach (1725-1775)
Peter Thomas Hull I (1713-1776)

Maria Elizabetha Dieffenbach (1705-1795)
Michael Harness (1701-1785)

Peter Thomas Hull II (1752-1818)
Barbara Ann Penninger (1756-1828)

John Harness (1725-1810)
Eunice Pettice (1737-1823)

Henry Hull (1780-1851)
Hannah Harness (1783-1827)

John Harness Hull (1804-1852)
Sarah Elizabeth Tucker (1814-1884)

Frances Ann Hull (1844-1894)
Hugh Patrick Jordan (1842-1930)

This document was started with family sources and the basic facts were filled in from Ancestry.com and other internet sources. The rest of the narrative came from many internet sources but the most valuable were the books by historian Oren Fredric Moton:

A History of Pendleton County, West Virginia, 1910.

A History of Highland County, West Virginia, 1911.

These two books were not published right after the Civil War but the war was still raw in the minds of historians and maybe not yet subject to new revisionist theories. He also published books of the histories of Bath, Monroe, Rockbridge, and Preston counties.

The best sources for Hardy County, West Virginia are the numerous postings of John L. Tevebaugh. He is a very rigorous historical researcher and a brutal critic of sloppy scholarship. Since none of my research is done with original documents I doubt if Mr. Tevebaugh would approve.

I have included information on family and the children of ancestors. I do this for completeness but mostly because even the basic facts tell a story. The names, dates, and places help map the journeys of these families from Germany to Chamois, Osage County, Missouri. Even the names of spouses tell a story. None of the Weltons, Arbogast, Cunninghams, Pattersons, or Zickafooses are ancestors but they married numerous family members of ancestors.

Old World Places

Even though this is a story about people it is useful to have a working knowledge of the places involved. What follows is a brief description of the places involved.

The Palatinate, historically also Rhenish Palatinat, is a region in south-western Germany. It occupies more than a quarter of the German federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate. Historically in union with Bavaria, Palatinate itself covers 5,451.23 km square in area. Since 1808 the administrative regions in Bavaria had been named after their main rivers. Thus the region after its incorporation into Bavaria was officially called the "Rheinkreis". In 1835 the romantic-minded King Ludwig I of Bavaria ordered the administrative regions to be named by historical allusions. So the region officially became the "Palatinate."

The Pennsylvania Dutch spoken by the Amish in the United States is (among other dialects) derived from the German (maybe Pennsylvania Deutsch) dialect spoken in the Palatinate, which many Palatine refugees brought to the colony in the early decades of the 18th century. The only existing Pennsylvania German newspaper, *Hiwwe wie Driwwe* is being published bi-annually in the village Ober-Olm, which is located close to Mainz, the state capital. In the same village, one can find the headquarters of the German-Pennsylvanian Association.

Our Dieffenbach story begins with **Martin Dieffenbachin** in the city of **(A) Marburg** in the state of Hesse, Germany, on the River Lahn. Like many settlements, Marburg developed at the crossroads of two important early medieval highways: the trade route linking Cologne and Prague and the trade route from the North Sea to the Alps and on to Italy, the former crossing the river Lahn here. The settlement was protected and customs were raised by a small castle built during the 9th or 10th century by the Giso. Marburg has been a town since 1140, as proven by coins. From the Gisos, it fell around that time to the Landgraves of Thuringia, residing on the Wartburg above Eisenach. Martin's son Johann Conrad Dieffenbach also lived in Marburg. The most famous residents internationally, however, were the Brothers Grimm, who collected many of their fairy tales here. The original building inspiring his drawing *Rapunzel's Tower* stands in Amönau near Marburg. Across the Lahn hills, in the area called Schwalm, little girls' costumes included a red hood.

Wulf Heinrich Dieffenbach was born and lived in **(B) Schmittweiler** in the district of Bad Kreuznach in Rhineland-Palatinate. The region is full of medieval castles, especially along the Nahe River. Best known is the Kyrburg of Kirn, built in the 12th century and sitting in state above the river. In 1815 the district of Kreuznach was established by the Prussian government. In 1932 it was merged with the district of Meisenheim. The name of the district officially changed from Kreuznach to Bad Kreuznach in 1969.

Johann Conrad Dieffenbach I lived in **(C) Wiesloch** a city in Germany, in northern Baden-Württemberg. It is situated 13 kilometres south of Heidelberg and about 40 miles south of Frankfurt. After Weinheim, Sinsheim and Leimen it is the fourth largest city of the Rhein-Neckar-Kreis and is in the north-central area near Heidelberg with its neighbouring town Walldorf. There were three battles near Wiesloch, the Battle of Mingolsheim on April 27, 1622

(during the Thirty Years' War), the 1632 Battle of Wiesloch on August 16, 1632, (during the same war) and the 1799 Battle of Wiesloch on December 3, 1799 (during the War of the Second Coalition). Wiesloch was attacked on January 28, 1689 by French troops under Ezéciel du Mas, Comte de Mélac, during the Nine Years' War, and was almost completely burnt down and destroyed. Wiesloch made history in 1888, when Bertha Benz was out driving her newly invented car for the first time and stopped for a petrol fill up at the city pharmacy... which became the first gas station in the world. Though the pharmacist was initially skeptical about selling gas to such a loud machine, he filled her up and sent up on her way.

Peter Thomas Hull I came from **(D) Worms** Germany. Worms is a city in Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany, on the Rhine River. Established by the Celts, who called it *Borbetomagus*, Worms today remains embattled with the cities Trier and Cologne over the title of "Oldest City in Germany." In 1689 during the Nine Years' War, Worms (like the nearby towns and cities of Heidelberg, Mannheim, Oppenheim, Speyer and Bingen) was sacked by troops of King Louis XIV of France, though the French only held the city for a few weeks. In 1743 the Treaty of Worms was signed, ending the Second Silesian war between Prussia and Austria. In 1792 the city was occupied by troops of the French First Republic during the French Revolutionary Wars. The Bishopric of Worms was secularized in 1801, with the city being annexed into the First French Empire.

The Harness family came from **(F) Unter Ötisheim, Wuerttemberg, Germany**. Unlike his predecessor, Johann Frederick (1582–1628), failed to become an absolute ruler, and perforce recognized the checks on his power. During this reign, which ended in July 1628, Württemberg suffered severely from the Thirty Years' War, although the duke himself took no part in it. His son and successor Eberhard III (1628–1674), however, plunged into it as an ally of France and Sweden as soon as he came of age in 1633, but after the battle of Nordlingen in 1634 Imperial troops occupied the duchy and the duke himself went into exile for some years. The Peace of Westphalia restored him, but to a depopulated and impoverished country, and he spent his remaining years in efforts to repair the disasters of the lengthy war. Württemberg was a central battlefield of the War; its population fell by 57% between 1634 1655, primarily because of death, disease, declining birthrates, and the mass migration of terrified peasants.

The Peninger family came from **(G) Cuxhaven, Germany**. It is a port city in northern Germany just northwest of Hamburg on the Elbe River. Cuxhaven is a long way from the Palatine but many of the issues of the time may have been the same. The family came to the New World sometime between 1755 (William born in Germany) and 1757 (John Henry born in Pendleton County). Cuxhaven is on a large bay open to the North Sea and was frequently bombed in WW2.

Based on the map below it appears that the Dieffenbachs, Harnesses, and Hulls came from different (but nearby) areas of Germany. However, Peter Thomas Hull met Susannah Margaretha Dieffenbach in Meisenheim, Germany about four miles from where Johann Martin Dieffenbach lived. They were later married in Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.



The New World Places

Much of this branch of family colonial history takes place in Augusta County, Virginia. Note that in the 1700s people considered Virginia to be the present state of Virginia plus West Virginia and maybe parts of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland as well. West Virginia did not become a state until 1863. Also the Augusta County of 1800 is now several counties in both Virginia and West Virginia. The documents of the time might say (accurately) that someone was born in Augusta County, Virginia when they were actually born in present-day Blue Grass, Highland County, West Virginia. When I can determine from the context I have given the current place name instead of the listed name from the document.

In May 1624, Noten Eylandt (Nuttan Island: officially renamed Governors Island in 1784) was the landing place of the first settlers in New Netherland. They had arrived from the Dutch Republic with the ship *New Netherland* under the command of Cornelis Jacobsz May, who disembarked on the island with thirty families in order to take legal possession of the New Netherland territory. The island is in Upper New York Bay, approximately one-half mile (1 km) from the southern tip of Manhattan Island and separated from Brooklyn by Buttermilk Channel. This is where the Johan Conrad Dieffenbachs and Harnesses arrived in America in 1710.

In 1709 a small group of fifty settled in Newburgh, New York, on the banks of the Hudson River. "In the summer of 1710, a colony numbering 2,227 arrived in New York and were later located in five villages on either side of the Hudson, those upon the east side being designated as East Camp, and those upon the west, as West Camp." The West Camp was also known as Livingston Manor. A census of these villages on May 1, 1711 showed 1194 on the east side and 583 on the west side. The total number of families was 342 and 185, respectively. This was the next stop for the Dieffenbachs and Harnesses.

The Dieffenbachs moved from West Camp about 200 miles northeast to Schoharie, New York about 20 miles west of Albany in Fall 1710. The Harnesses moved in 1723 briefly to Stone Arabia, New York. Stone Arabia is about 40 mile west of Albany.

In 1723 the Harnesses and the Johan Conrad Dieffenbachs next settled in Tulpehocken Settlement. Tulpehocken, which means "Land where the turtle sang and wooed," is also the name of a Creek in Eastern Berks County. The Swatara, a tributary of the Susquehanna, led to the Tulpehocken Creek, which "fed into Lancaster County. Later in 1739 the Harnesses moved to the South Branch of the Potomac to a farm in Buzzard's Ford near present day Fisher, West Virginia.

Peter Thomas Hull I, wife Susannah Dieffenbach, and family arrived in Philadelphia in 1741 and lived in Lancaster, Pennsylvania before 1750. Lancaster, Pennsylvania is about 60 miles west of Philadelphia and 30 miles south of Tulpehocken Settlement. Susannah's parents Johann Martin Dieffenbach and Anna Elizabeth Spiess probably came to America with the earlier group since Johann Martin died earlier in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on November 19, 1716.

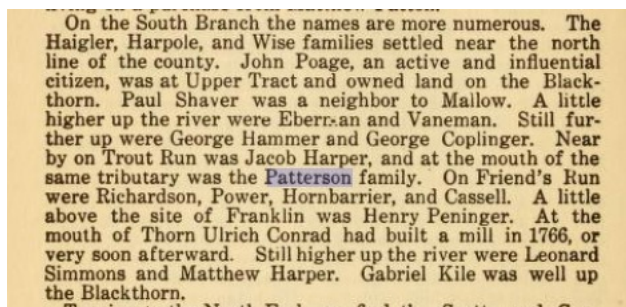
In about the spring 1752 the Hulls left Lancaster and settled in the South Branch of the Potomac in Virginia. At that time Virginia was much larger than today. West Virginia did not enter the Union until 1863 and it was just called Virginia up to that time. Augusta County was also much bigger in 1752 and it has now been divided into several Virginia and West Virginia Counties.

They Relocated to Shenandoah Valley in Virginia before 1752 – probably first to Pendleton County. On July 2, 1752, Christophel Francisco sold to Peter Hull I, a tract of 230 acres on Cub Run, Rockingham County, Virginia. This tract was part of 5000 acres which are on the Shenandoah River. The tract is located just south of present-day McGaheysville, Virginia about in south-east Rockingham County just seven miles from Harrisonburg, Virginia and two and one-half miles from the Base of Peaked Mountain. Peaked mountain is at the southern end of the Massanutten Range. The Massanutten Ski Resort is on the other side of the mountain. Cub Run Creek flows south-east through fertile and beautiful valleys into the nearby Shenandoah River. The area was home for many settlers from around Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Next the Hulls moved to finally Crabbottom, Highland County, West Virginia – now called Blue Grass. Blue Grass is an unincorporated community on VA 642 at its junction with VA 640 in Highland County, Virginia. Blue Grass lies along the South Branch Potomac River. It was previously known as Crabbottom and Hulls Store before the Board on Geographic Names officially decided upon Blue Grass in 1950. Somehow John Harness ended up in Crabbottom since both Henry Hull and Hannah Harness were born there along with their son John Harness Hull.

Peter Hull II owned several properties in both Highland and Pendleton Counties, West Virginia. He spent most of his later life in Crabbotton but as we shall see later when we are tracing the ancestry of Barbara Ann Peninger the Hull and Penington connections to the Franklin area of Pendleton County are crucial. The following is an excerpt from page 54 of *A History of Pendleton County West Virginia* by Oren F. Morton.

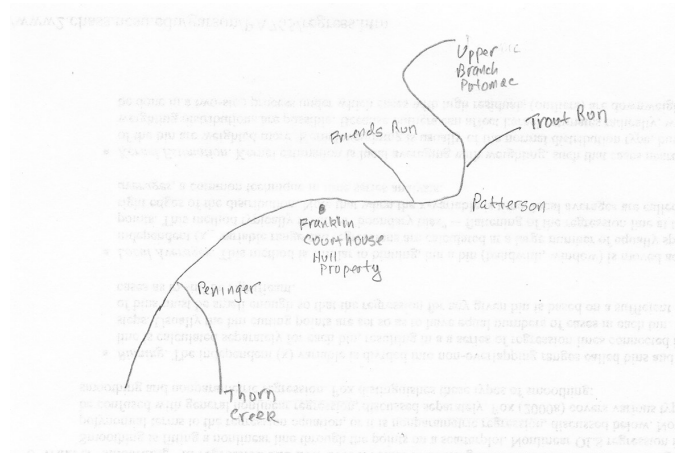
<https://archive.org/details/historyofpendlet00mort/page/54/mode/2up/search/Patterson>



On the South Branch the names are more numerous. The Haigler, Harpole, and Wise families settled near the north line of the county. John Poage, an active and influential citizen, was at Upper Tract and owned land on the Blackthorn. Paul Shaver was a neighbor to Mallow. A little higher up the river were Eberman and Vaneman. Still further up were George Hammer and George Coplinger. Near by on Trout Run was Jacob Harper, and at the mouth of the same tributary was the Patterson family. On Friend's Run were Richardson, Power, Hornbarrier, and Cassell. A little above the site of Franklin was Henry Peninger. At the mouth of Thorn Ulrich Conrad had built a mill in 1766, or very soon afterward. Still higher up the river were Leonard Simmons and Matthew Harper. Gabriel Kile was well up the Blackthorn.

Patterson is James Augustine Patterson (1760-1807) the husband of Elizabeth Ann Hull the daughter of Peter Hall I and sister of Peter Hall II. Henry Peninger is the father of Barbara Ann Peninger, the wife of Peter Hull II. In the same document, page 130, Peter Hull II is listed as the purchaser of a lot from John Roberts opposite from the Franklin County courthouse. Peter is also listed as a trustee of Franklin and later a member of the committee to create Pendleton County from parts of Hardy, Highland, Rockingham, and Augusta Counties.

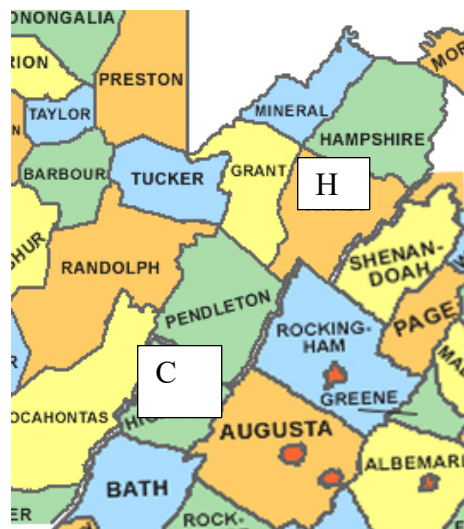
The South Branch of the Potomac River runs through Franklin. Here are the significant spots as it runs upstream through Franklin.



Peter Hull II also owned several properties in Highland County.

The Battle of McDowell was fought May 8, 1862, in Virginia, as part of Confederate Army Major General Stonewall Jackson's Campaign through the Shenandoah Valley during the American Civil War. It followed Jackson's tactical defeat by John C. Fremont's forces, but strategic victory, at the First Battle of Kernstown. It appears that important parts of the McDowell Battle were fought on or near Hull and Peninger properties. Both Hulls Hill and Peningers Hill appear on battlefield maps used at the time. McDowell, Highland County, Virginia is about seventeen miles southeast of Crabbottom. The creek called Crab Run enters the Bullpasture River in McDowell.

Many Hull family members also live and died in Hightown, Virginia. Hightown is about six miles southwest of Crabbottom.



In the mid-1700s almost all of the above was called Augusta County, Virginia. The H above indicates the approximate location of the Harness farm in Hardy County, West Virginia. The C indicates the approximate location of the Hull farm in either (or both) West Virginia or Virginia. H and C are 60 miles apart. The area along the Potomac River is referred to as the South Branch or sometimes The Trough. Bull Creek is in northeast Wood County, West Virginia, near present day Waverly, West Virginia on the Ohio River.

Finally John Harness Hull and his brother Laban moved to near Chamois and Benton Township, Osage County, Missouri. Chamois is a town on the banks of the Missouri River about midway between St. Louis and Kansas City. The final person named Hull in our branch of the family was John's daughter Frances Ann Hull Jordan. There is also a story that after her husband Hugh and his two sons, Jim and Mike, made the Oklahoma land run Frances Ann and the rest of the small children left Missouri. Supposedly she came with a freed slave and his family (who had worked for the Jordans at one time), but they did not go as far as the Jordan family were traveling. Frances Ann became ill and died while on the trail. Two of her sons, Hugh and John, buried her and completed the trip to Carrier, Oklahoma. Her tombstone is in Enid, next to Hugh, with the date of February 4, 1894, but her body is still near Hennessy, Oklahoma. An attempt was made at one time to recover her body, but the exact location could not be found.

Dieffenbachs

Martin Dieffenbach was born in 1605 in Oberweimar, Marburg-Biedenkopf, Hessen, Germany and died in 1674 in Germany. He was the son of Michael Dieffenbach (1560-1613) and Eila Anna (1560-1631). **Maria Rubesamen** was born in 1603 in Allendorf An Den, Lumba, Germany and died in July of 1638 in Germany, the daughter of John Rubesamon. They were married in 1629. Martin also married Barbara Katharina Omershausen.

Martin Dieffenbach was a Lutheran, forester at Marburg, Germany from 1630 till 1637. He was Mayor of Nordeck 1643 to 1645 and Burger at Marburg after 1645. Children:

1. **Wulf Heinrich Dieffenbach** born 1 Jan 1630 in Marburg, Hessen, Allemagne, Germany, died January 25, 1706 in Schmittweiler Pfalz, Germany, wife unknown.
2. Elizabeth Rubesamen Dieffenbach born 1631, married Herman Linz.
3. **Johann Conrad Dieffenbach I** born 1634 in Marburg, Germany, died 1703 in Germany, married **Anna Mather**. She was born on 1630 in Germany and died in July 1714 in Schoharie, Schoharie, New York.
4. Claus Dieffenbach born 1634 in Marburg, Marburg-Biedenkopf, Hessen, Germany, died 1703 in Germany, married Anna Elisabetha Wolfen.
5. Michael Dieffenbach born 1636.
6. Johann Heinrich Dieffenbach born 1638 married Barbara Katherina.

There is not much information about the two ancestor sons **Wulf Heinrich Dieffenbach** and **Johann Conrad Dieffenbach I** of Martin and Maria.

Johann Martin Dieffenbach II was born August 15, 1679 in Schmittweiler Pfalz, Germany and died November 19, 1716 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. **Anna Elizabeth Spiess** was born April 25, 1697 in Pohl-Göns, Darmstadt-Hessen, Germany and died December 2, 1753 in Pohl-Göns, Darmstadt-Hessen, Germany. He married Anna on July 22, 1704 in Callbach, Pfalz, Germany and they lived in Meisenheim. They came to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on October 15, 1737 from Amsterdam by way of Cowes, Isle of Wight, in the ship "Townsend", Thomas Thompson, Master, with 231 immigrants from the Pfalz. They settled in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Their daughter **Susannah Margaretha Dieffenbach** was born in October of 1725 in Meisenheim am Glan, Pfalz, German, died 1775 in Barton, Pocahontas, West Virginia, and married Peter Thomas Hull I. Peter had known Susannah while in Germany.

Johann Conrad Dieffenbach II was born in 1659 in Wiesloch, Rhein-Neckar-Kreis, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany and died in October 1738 in Tulpehocken, Berks County, Pennsylvania. **Maria Barbara Christler** was born in 1670 in Siebenthal, Bern, Switzerland and died in 1737 in Stouchburg, Pennsylvania.

In the year 1702 there was living in the town of Wiesloch one Johann Conrad Dieffenbach II, widower, age forty three, a cooper by trade, with his two children; a son Jacob and a daughter Catharina Margaretha who was four years old. Whether he was a new-comer or a native citizen who had fled the French and later returned to rebuild the town, we do not know. The name Dieffenbach, or Tieffenbach, (meaning "deep brook"), is a fairly common one, both for individuals and for towns in Germany.

As a youth, Johann Conrad Dieffenbach had spent many years learning his trade, practicing that exact angle to bevel the sides of staves that would ensure liquid-tight barrels to contain wine, beer, or vinegar; and others for salt, sugar, and flour, and similar commodities. Likewise he learned to make vats, tubs, buckets, and many other wooden household containers or canisters, which today are made of plastic or of metal. In addition to his trade Conrad may also have been doing some farming, for he conducted farm operations later in his life.

In Wiesloch, Bayern, Germany, on Christmas Day, 1702, Johann Conrad Dieffenbach, widower, married Maria Barbara Chistler, daughter of deceased Hans Jakob Christler of Ober Siebenthal, Canton Berne, Switzerland. As they were married in the Reformed Church, it may be assumed that her family was among multitudes of "Calvinists" who fled to Germany to escape atrocious religious persecution in their homeland. In the Church books which recorded this wedding are recorded the births of three of their children; John Ludwig, born September 10, 1704, (who died soon after birth); Maria Elizabeth, August 7, 1705, and Anna Elizabeth, May 8, 1708. Recorded in these books also is the marriage of Jakob Dieffenbach to Anna Margaretha, widow of Hans George Wyn, on January 1, 1706. Possibly this Jakob was Conrad's son by his first wife. As there are no records of births or deaths in Jakob's family, it's likely that the newlyweds soon moved elsewhere. A final record in these Church books states that on May 15, 1709, "Conrad Dieffenbach and his household" left Wiesloch for America. This household included his wife, his three daughters, and his mother Anna, then seventy four years old. (Possibly Anna was his step-

mother, if indeed she was the former Anna Elizabeth Ruhl, widow of Claus Dieffenbach who died at Berstadt on March 6, 1684).

The Dieffenbachs were not the only family leaving for America in the late spring of 1709. Multitudes of other Germans were on their way also, and the reasons for the mass exodus were many. Invading armies had for centuries swept back and forth across the Rhineland--living off the country, ravaging, looting, and destroying as they went. Grandparents, and some of the parents, could recall the devastation of the Thirty Years War, the conclusion of which ignored individual conscience, allowing each ruling prince to decide the religion to which his entire dominion must conform. A change of rulers sometimes meant a change of religion or else exile. Everywhere there were scars and ruins of the French armies of 1674 and 1698, when Louis XIV embarked on his policy of fanatical religious extermination. Twelve hundred villages were burned, their churches destroyed, axes laid to the orchards, crops plowed under, and thousands of innocent persons left to die miserably of cold and starvation. Bitter was the legacy of hatred left behind, enduring for centuries, and for which later generations of French were to pay a heavy retribution.

Yet the survivors endeavored to rebuild their way of life as best they could, inured as they were to hardship. But then it seemed that even Nature was against them. Beginning on Epiphany, 1709, there descended on Europe "ein erschrecklich grausame Kalte" (a frightfully dreadful gruesome cold)--a winter colder and more bitter than any that the oldest inhabitants could remember. Men and cattle froze to death; birds, it was said, died on the wing; mill ponds were locked deep in ice and no flour could be ground; fruit trees were completely frozen. To the distressed persons in this unhappy land, the New World beckoned with rays of hope. One William Penn, having himself some German ancestry, had toured Germany and, impressed by the industry and efficiency of German farmers, had decided that these were very desirable colonists for his new land of Pennsylvania. He too had suffered religious persecution, and his Quaker faith was synonymous with peace. Throughout the land he distributed handbills offering large farm lands, laws of their own making, and religious toleration to all Christians, and pursuits of peace. Queen Anne of England had relatives among German protestant princes, and she too had distributed pamphlets promising aid and urging emigration to her American colonies. Letters from relatives who had already settled at Germantown confirmed the prospectus of Pennsylvania.

To this land of promise would these unhappy Germans go, trusting for transportation to the bounty of "Good Queen Anne." Just what route the Dieffenbachs took is not known, but probably a several days journey by boat up the Rhine River took them to the ports of Holland, where they awaited transport ships for England. It is a matter of record that on June 11, 1709, the Dieffenbach party had arrived at St. Catherine's dock near the Tower of London. Their expectation of prompt sailing thence to Pennsylvania was only a delusion.

These "poor Palatines" arrived not in hundreds but thousands, to the consternation of authorities, posing problems of food and shelter. Some were housed in vacant warehouses, some in tents on Blackheath, some were even taken into private homes. Compassionate Londoners and other Englishmen elsewhere contributed toward food and supplies. By mid-July Queen Anne had to order that no more would be admitted. Thousands of those Germans were then settled in Ireland.

As for the remainder, the Board of Trade devised a plan to retrieve expenditures by transporting them to New York and employ them in extracting tar from the pine trees there, thus also providing a much-needed supply for the British navy in the current war with France. A very small settlement of Germans had been established several years before about sixty miles up the Hudson River by the Reverend Joshua Kocherthal, and Reverend Kocherthal was in London at the time. A number of transport ships (ten according to some records) was at last assembled at Plymouth, and from December on, several thousand Germans were housed in these ships, where they waited until April, 1710, when they finally set sail for New York. In June the journey ended at Nutten Island. Almost a year was spent just in reaching America. Many had died of disease and privation since December, and many others of fever on the island, but the Dieffenbach party all survived. After a long period of quarantine and other delays, early in October they were moved up the Hudson River to Livingston's Manor.

Houses and shelters of some sort they constructed, ranged in villages as in Germany, three on the east side of the Hudson and two on the west, frequently referred to as East Camp and West Camp. Food and subsistence provided. It was better than spending a winter on a wretched crowded ship. In the spring they would set to work at the unfamiliar task of manufacturing tar. Many, however, were exasperated. This was not the Pennsylvania of their dreams, and not the kind of life these farmers and skilled craftsmen had hoped to lead there. Instead, they found themselves practically serfs or indentured servants, toiling to repay their passage and keep – allotted only a few sandy acres, insufficient for their needs, and a promise of only 40 acres when their long-term servitude was fulfilled. An attempt also was made to convert them to the Church of England. A rebellion erupted, but it was quickly quelled by the calling in of troops. Johann Conrad Dieffenbach was busied for a while in making barrels. So great was this need that the masters were required to appoint thirty-six men every Monday to aid the coopers. The Dieffenbach family was increased during this period by the birth of a son whom they named Johann Adam. As he was baptized by some itinerant Reformed minister, there is no record of either his birth or baptism.

For a while things seemed to be working well. Food was fairly good and sufficient, the cowed workers busy, and some tar was being produced. But in 1712 things fell apart. The first supervisor refused to return and his successor was not so competent. Suppliers began to cheat on the quantities of flour, and their pork was too heavily salted. Supplies were unequally and irregularly distributed. Funds were being exhausted. Reaction in England to supporting these Palatines while there were so many poor at home put an end to subsidies. Expecting appropriations from England, the governor had gone into debt on the project. On September 12, 1712, he released these Palatines, telling them they could go elsewhere and look for work, but to remain within the province to await the Queen's pleasure. Some went to Albany, some to New York, others to Schenectady, where they received generous charity from the inhabitants. Still, many suffered sickness, misery, and starvation.

Somehow there persisted among these Germans a belief that the Indians had promised them lands on the frontier along the Schoharie. How this belief arose is not known. It had been said that some Indian chiefs who had been taken to London for a tour there saw these Palatines and promised them lands in New York. However, these Indians and the Palatines were not there at the same time, though they might have met in New York. A reference to these Indian lands came

up again in the aborted rebellion of the spring of 1711. Now several hundred determined Palatines defied the governor's orders and in October, 1712, moved down to the Indian lands on the Schoharie. Two members of this group were Jacob Kobel and Johann Conrad Dieffenbach. Although they were not allowed to take their tools, they improvised them and with the help of the friendly Indians established shelters or homes in seven small villages or dorfs as in Germany and along the Hudson previously. However it had occurred, a very friendly relationship existed between these Iroquois and the Palatines. One thing they had in common was an implacable enmity toward the French. The friendly relation was further cemented when young Conrad Weiser went to live with a chief and learn the Indian language. His high intelligence, his honesty, his stoicism in privation and near starvation at times, together with his sincere desire to learn the Indian ways and the Indian language won him their esteem, their trust, and their lifelong friendship.

Exhibiting a remarkable cooperative effort, these Germans assisted one another, but there were incredible hardships at first on the Schoharie. Men walked sixty miles to obtain even a small supply of flour, which they carried home upon their backs. "They borrowed a horse here, a cow there", yoked them together to plow their fields and to plant their crops. Until the crops could ripen they subsisted on nature--wild potatoes and strawberries fortunately grew there in abundance. Some food was supplied them by the generous citizens of Schenectady, and some from the Church people of New York.

There is little history recorded for Schoharie. In compliance with a new law, on January 31, 1716, Johann Conrad Dieffenbach took the oath of allegiance in Albany, though the record of his name is almost unrecognizable--"Johan Coenraet Jefbach." One Ulrich Simmendinger and his wife, bereft of their children, returned to Germany and at Rutlingen in 1717 published a "Register" of their countrymen then living in New York. Herein it is recorded and Conrad Dieffenbach and Maria Barbara and five children were then living at New Annesbury (Hartmansdorf to these Germans). Evidently Conrad's mother Anna had died previously, but whether at Schoharie or at West Camp on the Hudson is not known. The number of his children had increased to five with the birth of a fourth daughter, Anna Dorothea, born July 27, 1714 and baptized by the Reverend Joshua Kocherthal on August 1, 1714. On that very day the well-intentioned Queen Anne died.

Left to themselves, in a few years these Germans at Schoharie had transformed the land. They had accumulated property, including tools, horses and cattle. But their prosperity brought further tribulations. To the Indian mind, giving meant lending, not permanent alienation. The Raritan Indians, it is said, sold Staten Island six times. The Mohawks, it was now learned, had ceded these Schoharie lands first to the Dutch and then to the English before donating them to the distressed Palatines.

Now the early proprietors sent agents requesting payment for these farms, regardless of any Palatine arrangements with the Mohawks. Some of these agents were very roughly handled by indignant persons, but the Germans at last decided to move elsewhere, most of them to other parts of New York. "Pennsylvania" still sounded in the ears of some, especially since 1722 when Governor Keith, then in New York for a council, renewed the invitation to settle in Pennsylvania. An agent was sent to interview the governor and scouts to look over the land. There remains

today hardly a trace of those seven dorfs along the Schoharie, but another worthy ancestor has left his name upon the land – Cobelskill, the small stream where for ten years the miller Jacob Kobel had his home, perhaps a mill too, if grinding stones could be procured.

Once again with the aid of Indians a trail was made to Charlotte Creek where chestnut trees were felled and seasoned and shaped into dugouts and canoes, preparations for the water route by way of the Susquehanna to Pennsylvania. In the very early spring, goods and implements were hauled on rough sleds over snows to Charlotte Creek, point of embarkation. With foresight, efficiency, and expertise born of previous experiences they made their preparations. Food and shelter for the journey, seed for future crops, tools weapons, kitchen utensils, and such necessities had to be transported too. Everything unnecessary had to be abandoned: furniture, flowering plants, cherished mementos, items perhaps brought from Germany and salvaged despite previous removals, had to be left behind.

Early one April morning 1723 some twenty canoes, rafts, and dugouts shoved off for that trip of ten or more days and three hundred miles down the swollen waters of the zig-zag Susquehanna. Only a few lines were ever written about this remarkable and heroic expedition. To the participants perhaps it was only one more incident of their many tribulations. Mishaps or other incidents of this journey we shall never know. Friendly Indian guides may have accompanied this party, locating over-night camping sites, assisting in procuring fish and game for hungry oarsmen's evening meals. Overcoming all obstacles, down, down the river they journeyed until they reached the Swatara, which they ascended until a portage could be made to their final destination, the Tulpehocken--the Indians' "Land of Turtles."

The eye of imagination pictures landward from Schoharie a strange safari: Indian guides for German cowboys, mounted on plow-horses, leading pack-horses burdened with provisions, others perhaps conveying family members; herding, driving herds of livestock, horses, sheep, and cattle southwards to the land of Tulpehocken. On their arrival, farmwork would busily begin. How many persons came by the river and who the individuals were we do not know. Neither do we know how many came overland with the livestock. That the boatmen had arrived before May 13, 1723, is apparent from a letter with that date by James Mitchell of Donegal to Mayor Logan of Philadelphia: "I give you to know that there is fifteen families of Dutch come from Albany and are now settling up Swatara." Mitchell may have been the first to mistake these Germans of Pennsylvania for Dutch. He is not alone in this. In the annals of America the multitudes of Germans who have contributed so much to Pennsylvania have been known properly though erroneously as "Pennsylvania-Dutch". This despite the fact that their books, their wills, their tombstones were all in German. Mitchell apparently did not know either that not all this party settled at Swatara. In 1726 Godfried Fiedler made a Deposition in which he reported that there were sixteen families, some of them making their stop on the Swatara and the rest on the Tulpehocken.

In 1724 a petition bearing the fifteen names (assumed to be Mitchell's original settlers) was sent to Governor Keith, asking that titles be cleared so that they might purchase the lands where they had settled. This petition began: "The petition of us the subscribers, being thirty-three families in number..." A few lines further are these words: "Your petitioners did last year leave their settlements in New York Government and came with their families to this place." (These

petitioners are still thirty-three not fifteen.) This petition is in good English, with the customary legal conventions and terminology. Obviously fifteen delegates of those thirty-three families had sought out an English lawyer somewhere (hardly there in Tulpehocken) to prepare this petition. If the lawyer also wrote their names on it, he lapsed into his Latin in one instance (Sebastian Pias for Sebastian Fischer), and his knowledge of German was only auricular. This petition clearly indicates that these fifteen signers, plus eighteen others they represented, all arrived in Tulpehocken in 1723.

Thus there is no documentary evidence that Johann Conrad Dieffenbach was in the original party. But there is yet another consideration. In 1904 C.I. Lindemuth published a map of the original holdings of settlers in Tulpehocken, based on land deeds and other documents. On this map it will be seen that the farm of Adam Dieffenbach (which he inherited from his father, Johann Conrad Dieffenbach) was almost in the center of and surrounded by the farms of persons whose names appeared on that 1724 petition. Would they have left this tract open for him had he not come with them? His farm joined Dieffenbach's on the north. Settling as close as they could to one another would hardly have been possible had they not come together.

However this may be, after an odyssey of almost exactly fourteen years, these Germans had at last reached the land of their hopes and dreams, the promised land of Pennsylvania. Here amid the Blue Hills, the fertile fields, beside the quiet streams they would enjoy peace, prosperity, and religious freedom, on broad acres of their own in the plenty of Pennsylvania. Here they would spend the remainder of their lives in the comfort and contentment they had so dearly bought. And they would enrich the land of their adoption by their useful toil, their expert craftsmanship, and their superior methods of farming.

With admirable and astonishing cooperation, already remarked in Schoharie, they worked together as a most efficient unit, building one another's log cabin homes and barns, the cabins near a spring or over one for an abundant supply of water. No longer in dorfs, but on scattered farms these buildings rose. When the horses and livestock arrived, fields were plowed and crops were planted. There is a story that a dozen horses escaped one night and eighteen months later returned to Schoharie. The skeptics would be silenced by pioneers in Illinois who had a like experience. In 1851 shortly after they had arrived there, four horses disappeared one night, not by act of horse thieves as at first was thought. Many months later these same horses reappeared at their former stables in Ohio whence they had come.

Once more thrift, industry, and perseverance transformed a bit of wilderness into a prosperous thriving farming community. Somewhere, perhaps, the spirit of William Penn smiled approvingly on that settlement at Tulpehocken. Sturdy homes in fruitful, well-tilled farmlands, weedless gardens, weedless orchards, fields of blue-flowered flax for linen, gabbling geese on every runlet--down for quilts when winter rages--busy skillful hands at useful labor--these were the trade-marks of his Pennsylvania-Dutch. Many thousands more like them yet would come. Still there remained some problems at Tulpehocken: one was that of obtaining valid titles to their lands (not another Schoharie!); another was that of securing a passable road to their market at Philadelphia. The Leni-Lappe Indians complained that these settlers were on lands still possessed by them, and the petition of 1724 about this purchase could not be acted upon because of the death of William Penn and subsequent litigation. Eventually the rightful heirs were invested and

then a treaty devised with the Indians to purchase this tract. In his admirable book, *The Hub of the Tulpehocken*, Earl W. Ibach gives the text of this treaty and lists the quantities of articles given in addition to 50 pounds in money as payment. Among these he lists 20 brass kettles, 12 dozen rings, 400 tobacco pipes, and 23 looking-glasses, to mention only a few of the articles. But now in 1732 the lands could be purchased, and one of the first to make payment was Johann Conrad Dieffenbach.

In September 1727 a petition for a road eastward to link up with the Highroad to Philadelphia at Oley was sent to the Court of Quarter Sessions. It was signed by twenty-eight Germans, but two of these were living elsewhere, and the tax collector had already located sixteen others who might have signed. On this petition the seventh signature is that of Jacob Kobel and the eighteenth is in the firm hand of Conrad Dieffenbach. Since nothing was done about this petition, the settlers themselves widened Indian trails by cutting down trees and underbrush.

As in the days of Boaz, the farmers would flail out their grain on the threshing floor, then they stored it in grain-sacks to await transportation to Philadelphia. For mutual aid and protection several farmers would form a wagon train for the ten days trip to market. In such wagon trains as these, Conrad Dieffenbach and later his son Adam would go on annual trips to Philadelphia. Farmers near the Conestoga Hills a few miles west of Tulpehocken devised a vehicle to meet new conditions. Larger and heavier than their hay wains, it was water-tight and curved up higher at the ends, the better to ford streams where as yet there were no bridges. Higher wheels were necessary to clear the stumps left by the ax-men on the trail. A canvas top gave protection to the grain from weather on this trip to Philadelphia and to the purchases they would bring back home with them. They could not have known, these practical farmers, the impact they would have on the future of America. Out of necessity and ingenuity they had devised in their Conestoga wagon the forerunner of the prairie schooner, the covered wagon, which in later times would move in vast trains over the Forbes Road to Pittsburg and open up Ohio, and in later days roll westward over prairies, plains, and mountains to the Pacific and the far-off unheard-of land of Oregon. Let us assume that Johann Conrad Dieffenbach and his Maria Barbara lived the remainder of their lives in happiness, in comfort, and in contentment, surrounded by old friends and neighbors, their children and even some grandchildren, in the kind of life they loved. With larger acreage, more of Conrad's time and effort would be devoted to his farming, but on rainy days, after harvest, and in winter months, he would be found in his shop busy at his trade. Idleness at such times was unthinkable among these Pennsylvania-Dutch, and every farm boy invariably also learned a trade. This deeply-rooted custom was still dominant a century later among descendants in Ohio. At her huge fireplace in the kitchen Maria Barbara was equally busy, or baking bread and drying apples at her outdoor beehive oven, making soap or apple butter, hackling flax or plucking geese, spinning, weaving,--dawn to dusk her never-ending household chores.

On July 22, 1737, Johann Conrad Dieffenbach devised his will. It was probated on October 11, 1738. Thus he died sometime in the interval at the age of 78. Because it was filed at Philadelphia instead of at Lancaster, the will eluded searchers for many years. It appears in the index (probably so recorded by a Welshman) as John Cynraed Tiffebogh, although it is clearly signed as Dieffenbach. Thus the information that there was no will at Philadelphia for Conrad Dieffenbach. Thanks to the publication by R.T. and M.C. Williams of their *Index of Early Wills and Administrations of Philadelphia County*, this will was located. Both the original will and the

translation are on file there, the translation done by a German whose knowledge of English spelling was limited.

From his will it is evident that Conrad Dieffenbach had prospered somewhat. He had made a payment of 40 pounds on the farm, which he bequeathed to his son Johann Adam. He had already given his son Jacob (still living somewhere) and his daughter Catharina Margaretha Reith (children of his first wife) their share--another 80 pounds if they received as much as Adam did. No bequest is given to the two younger daughters, Maria Elizabeth Ernst (Harness) and Anna Dorothea Hock, except their share eventually of their mother's household furnishing. It may be that they too had already been given their share. Anna Elizabetha born in Germany in 1708 is not mentioned, but as he speaks of "my wife of my late marriage and my three children" (of that marriage) it would appear that she had died some time previously.

He provided indisputable life-long tenure for his widow in the house where they were living. She remained the mistress, owning all the household furniture and all utensils, receiving yearly one-fourth of all farm produce and a portion of the garden. To assure that these provisions were strictly carried out, he named her one of the administrators. While her only son Adam, married in 1734, was probably living in the old home and managing the farm, neither he nor the daughter-in-law, should they ever be so inclined, could disturb the even tenor of her declining years. How long Maria Barbara survived her husband to enjoy these facilities we do not know. She died in 1737 in Stouchburg, Pennsylvania.

His signature in a straight line though a slightly shaky hand shows that since 1727 Conrad Dieffenbach had learned some English script, for he signs in English, though a wax seal unfortunately was stamped upon the final letters of his name. The two neighbors who witnessed this will, John Martin Kitzmiller and Johannes Lebo, merely made their mark. Younger men of these frontiers had little opportunity for a German education.

Their earthly pilgrimage completed, somewhere in the Tulpehocken area Johann Conrad Dieffenbach and his Maria Barbara were laid to rest, far away from Wiesloch and from Ober Siebenthal. There is a tradition that he was buried on his farm, and that may well be true, instead of the cemetery at Host Church, as this writer once thought. In a legal document of 1741, a boundary of Adam Dieffenbach's farm is designated as "Church Lands". If this area had at first been part of Conrad's farm, it would account for the peculiar irregular shape of Adam's holdings. Though designated as "Church Lands", there was no church building there until 1744. John Kitzmiller was buried there in February 1745, ten months before the property was purchased from Caspar Wistar. The "Church Lands" then must have been the original cemetery of the Reformed congregation. Although the Kitzmiller tombstone is the earliest one in the cemetery, and the only one for the next twenty-five years, it cannot be assumed that death had taken a holiday in intervals either after or before. Though there are no tombstones to mark their graves, Conrad and Maria Dieffenbach may have been buried in the first cemetery of Tulpehocken Reformed Church within sight of their homestead where they spent their declining years.

Children of Johann Conrad Dieffenbach – Johan Jacob and Catherina were with his first wife:

1. Johan Jacob Dieffenbach born 1690 in Wiesloch, Rhein-Neckar-Kreis, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany, died 1750 in Fredrick, Virginia, married widow Anna Margaretha Wyn.
2. Catharina Margaretha Dieffenbach born 1698 in Wiesloch, Rhein-Neckar-Kreis, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany, died 1745, married John George Rieth.
3. John Ludwig Dieffenbach born September 10, 1704 in Wiesloch, Rhein-Neckar-Kreis, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany. Died soon after his birth.
4. **Maria Elizabetha Dieffenbach** born July 8, 1705 in Wiesloch, Baden, Wurttemberg, Germany, died 1795 in Hardy, West Virginia, married **Michael Harness**. Maria's birth also listed as August 7.
5. Anna Elizabeth Dieffenbach born August 5, 1708 in Biblis, Darmstadt, Hessen, Germany, died June 20, 1752 in Biblis, Darmstadt, Hessen, Germany. Anna's birth is also listed as May 8.
6. Johann Adam Dieffenbach born 1711 in Schoharie, Schoharie, New York, died 1777 in Tulpehocken, Berks, Pennsylvania.
7. Anna Dorothea Dieffenbach born July 27, 1714 in West Camp, Ulster, New York, died February 26, 1755 in Tulpehocken, Berks, Pennsylvania, married Mr. Hock

See also: Hull Family Association Journal, 1990, "Peter Thomas (Hull) (of) Pfalz" by Albert B. Savage and others, Aug. 1990.

The Dieffenbach line splits and merges into both the Harness and the Hull lines only to be joined back together with the marriage of Henry Hull and Hannah Harness. As is seen in the tree diagrams the Harnesses and Hulls merge with the Dieffenbachs in same generation. As we shall see later the experiences in Germany and at West Camp on the Hudson were almost identical while there time in Pennsylvania differed.



Coming to America.... Harness

A Harness by any other name is...*Ernst*

To those family members who read this thinking they would learn more about the German emigrant Michael Harness, Sr. and his family, rest assured you will. However, it may come as a shock to some of you that your family surname, technically at least, is not Harness at all.

It is a fascinating story, and it begins, as far back as current research can determine, in the late 1600's in the little village of Unteröwisheim in the region of the Rhenish (Lower) Palatinate of Central Europe known then as Baden (today's Baden Württemberg).



Unteröwisheim is located in the Krachtal valley of today's southern Germany and was home in the late 1600's to a man named Joachim Ernst Krafft Hörner (1660-1710) and his family. The village was in the heart of wine country. It is just northeast of Karlsruhe between the dense forests and hills of the Black Forest and the forests that surround the beautiful city of Heidelberg which at the time was the capital of the Rhenish (Lower) Palatinate region.

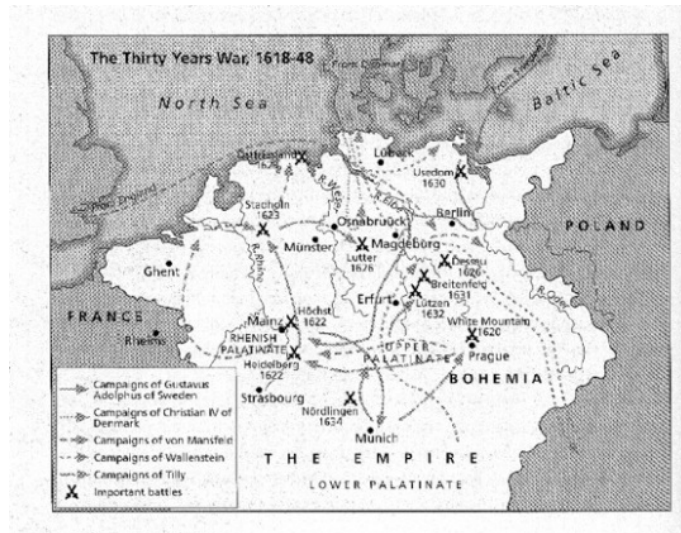
Veteran researcher-historian John Tevebaugh says that Ernst was Joachim Ernst-Kraft Hörner's basic surname. Some researchers believe that he may have been a glass cutter or made wine decanters. Joachim had a wife named Apolonia and they had five children. Two of the children died in infancy.

The town of Unteröwisheim was right in the heart of the devastation left by the 30-year war, followed by a bitter winter in 1708. A bit more about the dire situation in which Joachim Ernst's family and others in that region faced is in order before proceeding further. It is very much like the conditions faced by the Dieffenbachs.

First, what and where exactly was the Palatinate region?

The Rhenish (or Lower Palatinate) included land on both sides of the Middle Rhine River in Germany. Its capital, until the 18th century, was Heidelberg.

During the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) the people of the Lower Palatinate suffered from the horrors of war as well as from pillage and plunder by the French armies.



The war was based upon both politics and religious hatred, as the Roman Catholic armies sought to crush the religious freedom of a politically-divided Protestantism. Many unpaid armies and bands of mercenaries devoured the very livelihood and substance of the people.

During the War of the Grand Alliance (1689-97), the troops of the French monarch Louis XIV ravaged the Rhenish Palatinate even more, with Louis XIV finally ordering the region's destruction. The people of the area had little choice but to flee.

The land of the lower Palatinate had been good for its inhabitants, many of whom were farmers and vineyard operators, but its location was unfortunately subject to almost continuous invasion by the armies of Britain, France, and Germany.

There were many reasons for the Palatines to seriously consider immigrating to America: oppressive taxation, religious bickering, the desire for more and better land, the advertising of the colonies in America and the favorable attitude of the British government toward settlement in the colonies. And then an act of Mother Nature pretty well clinched the decision to leave their native home in the Lower Palatinate.

The winter of 1708-1709 was very long and cold in the Rhineland, the most severe in 100 years. It was a very bleak period. Many of the vineyards perished. People huddled around their fires as they considered quitting their homes and farms forever. By early April, the land was still frozen and most of the Lower Palatinate's grape vines had been killed by the bitter weather. Since 1702 their country had been enduring war and there was little hope for the future. The Thirty Years War lay heavy on their minds, a period in which one out of every three Germans had perished.

To go to America meant a long and dangerous ocean voyage and a future in an unknown land, away from their past and family. Many wondered how they could ever finance such a journey even if they wanted to attempt it. Small boats, known as scows, would have to be acquired for the long ride down the Rhine River to Rotterdam and then there was the price for the ocean voyage. While some of the people had relatives that could assist them financially, many were very poor. Soon enough, their minds were made up for them as France's King Louis XIV invaded their land, ravaging especially the towns in the Lower Palatinate.

At the invitation of Britain's Queen Anne in the spring of 1709, some 7,000 Palatine residents (including Joachim Ernst, his wife and 3 children) boarded small boats and headed down the Rhine for Rotterdam. It was April and the first parties were afloat on the Rhine, many with only their most basic goods and their faith in God as their only possessions. The river voyage took an average of 4-6 weeks through extremely cold, bitter weather. Tolls and fees were demanded by authorities of the territories through which they passed.

By June 1709, the people were streaming into Rotterdam at a rate of one thousand per week. By October, more than 10,000 Palatines had completed the Rhine River journey to England. The British government issued a Royal proclamation in German that all arriving after October 1709 would be sent back home. The British could not effectively handle the number of Palatines in London. There may have been as many as 32,000 by November 1709. They wintered over in England since there were no adequate arrangements for their transfer to the British colonies.

Ten ships bearing 3,100 emigrants sailed for New York in April 1710.

The new Governor-elect of New York, Robert Hunter was on board one of the ships. Joachim Ernst, his three children (20 year old Anna Margaretha, 15 year old Johann Conrad Mattheus and 9 year old Johann Michael Ernst) and Joachim's wife, Apollonia, were among those making the long journey.

The ocean voyage was harsh, with over-crowded, under-supplied, and unsanitary ships. What provisions were supplied were generally the least expensive available to the ship's master. Water frequently ran out, as did food. Extreme mortality occurred. Approximately 470 died on the voyage and another 250 shortly after their arrival in New York. In addition to the woes during the ocean voyage itself, the Palatines faced robbery, deception, and worse from those transporting them. But most of them, including Ernst and his family, finally arrived in America. According to a reconstructed passenger list, Joachim Ernst and his family arrived in New York aboard one of the ships (the reconstructed list indicates the ship was called the *Fame*) in June, 1710.

...and this is where the story should get really interesting for Harness family members who by now must be wondering what all this about a man named Joachim Ernst and his family has to do with their ancestors. Well, that Joachim and his family are your ancestors.

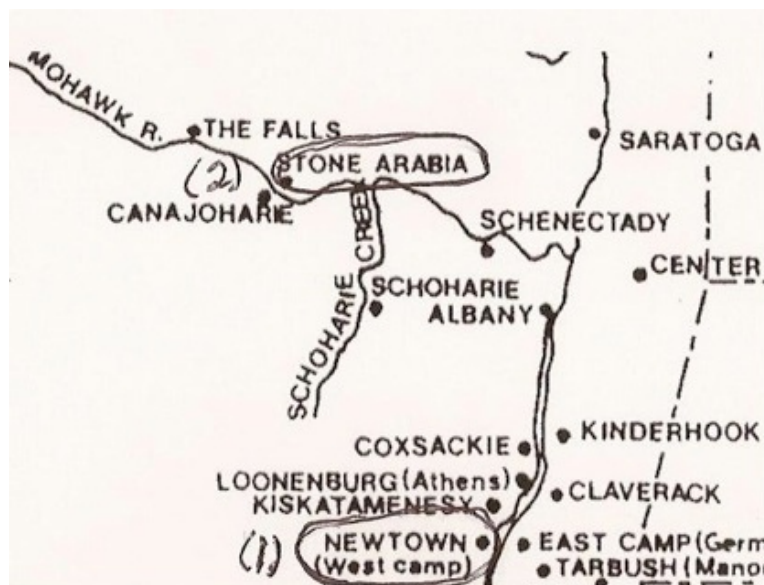


Think about it a moment. When Joachim Ernst and his family arrived in America and were processed at Nutten Island (later known as Governor's Island), they only spoke German and quite likely understood not a bit of English - at least not enough to correct someone. The processors, of course, spoke and wrote English and not a bit of German, spoken or written. Here is how veteran researcher John Tevebaugh, on whose excellent research most of this early history of our family is based, thinks the surname Ernst became Harness:

The closest name to Ernst in English was probably Ernest (or Earnest). Englishmen often drop the initial "H" from their spoken words, but include it when writing. A final "t" often would not be said very distinctly and the English ear would not be expecting it combined in the harsh German "st" sound. So the written result of the spoken Ernst was apparently interpreted as Harness when written in English by the processor on Nutten Island.

Whether that is exactly how it happened or not, through some sort of miscommunication during the processing on Nutten Island the family's surname Ernst became Harness.

After their arrival in New York, the Palatine emigrants were quarantined on Nutten Island due to an outbreak of typhus.



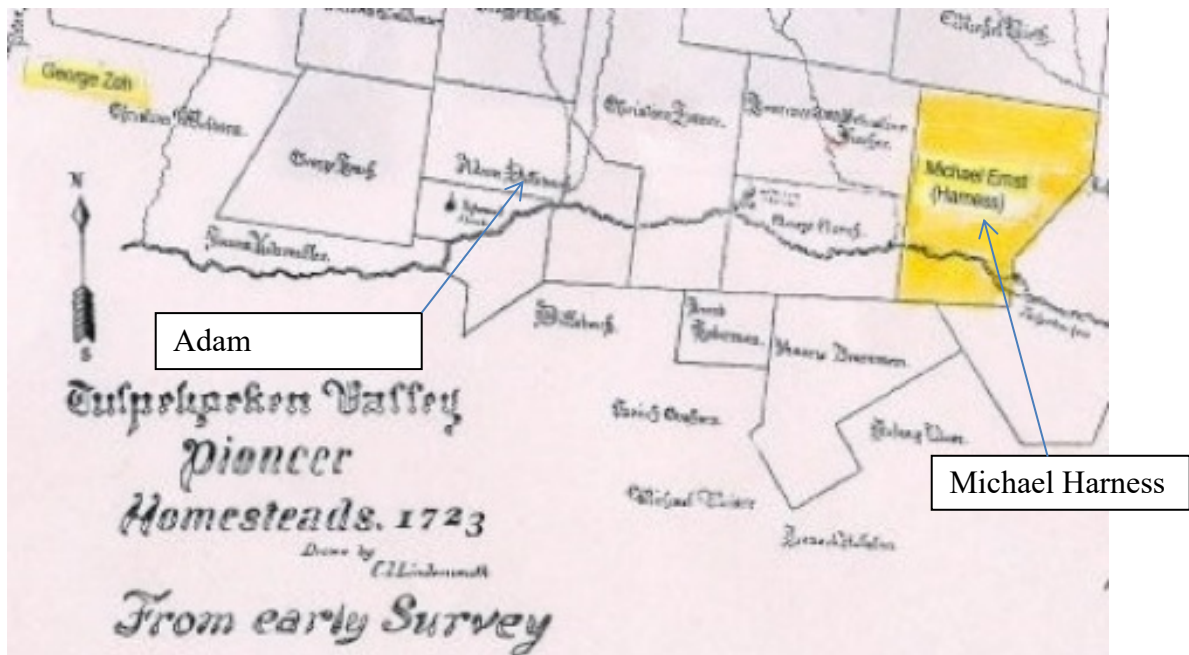
Joachim died only a month or so after his arrival in America, probably on Nutten Island or perhaps at West Camp, a Palatine emigrant camp on the Hudson river in Ulster County, New York. (*West camp is in lower center on map at left*). It is likely that Joachim's wife, Apolonia, died in October of that same year, probably at West Camp.

But one of their children, their youngest, Michael Ernst (1701-1785), would emerge some years later in the Virginia colony as Michael Ernst Harness, Sr., the patriarch of this family branch. Researchers say that Michael resisted the surname change until his death. He was known by several surnames (and combinations of surnames) over the years. According to researcher Tevebaugh, when Michael arrived in New York as an emigrant he was "Johann Michael Ernst Hörner." In 1733, in Tulpehocken, Pennsylvania, he was sometimes known as "Michael Ernst Kraft-Hörner." When his daughter was baptized in the South Branch Valley of the Virginia colony in 1743, he was again "Johann Michael Ernst Hörner." He was referred to in several documents in Pennsylvania in 1725, 1727 and 1732 as simply "Michael Ernst." He went by that name when Moravian missionaries visited him on the South Branch of the Virginia colony in 1749. He even identified himself that way as he signed X beside the name "Michael Ernst" in his 1779 will. But with a few exceptions, his children were always identified by their Americanized surname "Harness."

But now back to the story. According to researcher-historian Tevebaugh, New York Governor Robert Hunter, on November 23, 1710 apprenticed Michael Ernst's older brother, Conrad, (then age 15) to a New York City man (Enoch Freeland), leaving Michael, under the age of 10, by himself to find a new "home." By the end of December 1710 Michael had joined the subsistence list of his sister, Margaretha and her new husband, Johannes Keyser, probably at Livingston Manor's West Camp settlement along the Hudson river in New York. It is unclear how long Michael remained in the care of the Keyser's.

New York Governor Hunter stopped subsistence payments to the Palatine emigrants after 1712. The Keyser's left West Camp in 1723 and moved to the Stone Arabia Patent settlement along the Mohawk river in New York. Stone Arabia is marked as (2) on the previous map.

Sometime between 1723 and 1725 Michael Ernst (later known as Michael Harness Sr.) , by then in his mid 20's, and married, was among a group of Palatine emigrants who left New York state entirely for the Tulpehocken Creek Settlement in what was then Chester (and later Berks) County, Pennsylvania.



Ernst (Harness) is listed on a 1723 survey map (above) and on the January, 1725 tax assessment list as a landowner in Tulpehocken township, with 240 acres adjoining Tulpehocken Creek. His homestead was only a few lots east of a lot owned by Conrad Dieffenbach, whose daughter, Elizabeth, Michael had married a year or so earlier, probably at the Schoharie settlement in New York, but perhaps not until he arrived at Tulpehocken. Elizabeth's brother, Adam, is also shown as the owner of a plat of land.

Michael's name was the first of the names to appear in an extant public document. The somewhat uncomplimentary occasion was documented in an Augusta County, Virginia, court suit of Richard Crunk vs. Michael Harness, et al., begun as early as April or May 1747. Crunk accused Michael and several other young men from the South Branch Valley of the Potomac River of trespass and assault. The case slowly made its way through the court dockets until 20 August that year, when all the accused consulted with the plaintiff and agreed to pay his costs if the suits were dropped. The case ended with that decision, and the Court Order Book recorded no further details. It would seem that the occasion involved younger men of Michael's age, rather than of the age of his father.

It is likely that Michael's son Michael Jr. had attained his majority by the time of the suit; and consequently, that he had been born in the Tulpehocken settlement in Pennsylvania, where his parents had lived before coming to the South Branch. Had he turned 21 a year or so before the suit, he might have been the Michael Harness who was ordered by the Augusta County Court to inventory the John Bogard estate on 18 June 1747.

Like his father, Michael, Jr., was active among his neighbors assisting in the appraisement of their estates and offering surety for their administrator's bonds. His first documented involvement was when he witnessed the last will and testament of one Jacob "Wevebaught," of the lower part of the South Branch Valley, in January 1750/1, when that area was part of

Frederick County, Virginia. His second involvement with an estate was with that of his new father-in-law, Eurie (Jurien) Westfall, who was, with his wife Blandina, a relative newcomer to the South Branch area. This couple, said to have married in 1719 in Kingston, Esopus County, New York, had some six children, at least one of whom, a daughter named Catharine, came with them to Augusta County, Virginia.⁵⁰ Were it not for an almost incidental comment in the Court Order Book, we might never have known of his relationship with that family. When naming the Administrator of Eurie's will, it reads: "Michael Harness (son-in-law of Eurie Westfall) moved according to law to be named Admr of the Estate. Court granted him Certificate for letters of Admin."⁵¹ This statement was crucial to validate the full identification of Michael's wife and children later.

Later in 1753, Michael's wife suffered another blow when her mother died. On 21 November 1753, court records disclose the return of an inventory of the estate of Blandina Westfall to the court, and that "Michael Harness Administrator" had sold the contents. It had been valued at L95, consisted mostly of livestock, and probably represented also what remained of Eurie's estate.

The life of Michael Harness, Jr., came to a sudden end on 20 August 1763. The newspaper, *New York Post Boy*, reported in its 6 October 1763 issue that Michael and Jonathan Welton were killed on that date by Indians in Welton's meadow, on "Loony's [now Lunice] Creek" in the colony of Virginia. It was not until 25 February 1764 that Catharine Harness had her Administratrix's Bond secured by John Harness and Nathaniel Kuykendall and accepted by the Hampshire County Court.

Because Harness descendants for so very long could not separate the life of Michael Ernst, whom they exclusively referred to as Michael Harness, from the life of Michael Harness, Jr., they also could not decide, to everyone's satisfaction, the identity of Jr.'s wife. One candidate for many years was a Catherine Van Meter, for whom no confirming evidence was ever found. Occasionally someone would confuse the two Michaels long enough to place an Elizabeth Westfall, whose existence they could not even document, with Junior. Later, the correctly named daughter of Eurie and Blandina Westfall was recognized as the wife of whichever Michael Harness it was who was called the son-in-law of the two Westfalls. Finally, most descendants recognized Catharine Westfall as the wife of Michael Harness, Jr. Very, very few Harness descendants have come close at all to the names of the children of this couple. Only a small handful of descendants today are certain who those children were. Yet, anyone who had looked for Harness in Hampshire County Deed Book 4 (1773-1778) would have found, on pages 203 and 209, the name of Michael's direct heir at law, and the name of the next husband of Michael's widow. Using that husband's name, Abraham Kuykendall, and by following through his deeds and will, even the casual searcher would have found the other two children. The answer was under their noses for over 200 years.

Under Virginia Law, the sole heir of an intestate at that time was the eldest son, which in this case was Adam Harness, as noted clearly in the above deeds. Another son, Isaac, was mentioned in Kuykendall's will as the recipient of half of Kuykendall's "plantation" after the death of Isaac's mother, Catharine. One explanation has been advanced that Isaac may have been devised land on 20 February 1777 in Abraham's will; but, it probably was the same Isaac said to have been killed

the next September in a militia ambush. In that case, Isaac would have ceased to be a will factor before the will was proved in 1779. There is no further record of Isaac in the Kuykendall-Harness documents. The other child was Sarah Harness, also named in Kuykendall's will, who inherited money and land in that will. She married, probably before 1782, a Luke Decker. Luke, Sarah, the widow Catharine Kuykendall, and eventually Adam Harness and his family, moved from the South Branch to near Vincennes, in the Northwest Territory, the first three about 1784, and Adam at the end of the 1790s.

The Michael Harness, Jr., Estate took a long time to be settled. It was not until 21 and 22 January 1765, that his estate was appraised, and not until 11 June that year that it was returned to the Hampshire County Court for recording. It was an extensive inventory, including livestock, two slaves, clothing, household goods and farm implements. It was appraised at about £575. For whatever reason, the final settlement with Catharine was not made until 1782, and accepted by her shortly thereafter. The settlement may have been concluded as part of her preparation for leaving for the West.

Maria Elizabetha Dieffenbach (1705 -1796) had left the Rhineland for America with her family on May 15, 1709. Elizabeth was born in 1705 in Wiesloch, Baden, not far from Michael Ernst Harness' family home at Unterowesheim. She was one of three children. Elizabeth and her mother, Barbara (Chrisler) and 3 siblings were with her father, Johann Conrad Dieffenbach, for a few years after their arrival in America. Those reconstructed passenger lists indicate that they arrived in New York on the same ship from London as Joachim Ernst's family, the *Fame*. Conrad Dieffenbach is listed as #127 on Governor Hunter's subsistence list. The Dieffenbach family lived first in the Palatine settlement along the Schoharie River in New York, near present day Albany. In 1723 they made their way to the Tulpehocken Creek settlement in Pennsylvania.

Their children are:

1. Anna Margaretha Horner born 1687 in Unter Oestisheim, Wuerttemberg, died 1744 in Stone Arabia, Albany, New York, married Johannas Keyser.
2. Johann Conrad Mattheus Horner born 1695 in Unter Oestisheim, Wuerttemberg, Germany, died March 3, 1785 in Virginia.
3. Regina Magdalena Horner born December 31, 1696 in Unter Oestisheim, Wuerttemberg, Germany, died May 2, 1701 in Unter Oestisheim, Wuerttemberg, Germany.
4. **Michael Harness** born January 1, 1701 in Unter Oestisheim, Wuerttemberg, Germany, died March 3, 1785 in South Branch, Hardy, West Virginia, married **Maria Elizabetha Dieffenbach**.
5. Susanna Barbara Horner born December 17, 1703 in Unter Oestisheim, Wuerttemberg, Germany, died January 6, 1704 in Unter Oestisheim, Wuerttemberg, Germany.

Hull Family

There are more than one Peter Hulls in this story. Whenever there might be confusion I will refer to them as Peter Hull I, Peter Hull II, or Peter Hull III.

Peter Thomas Hull I was born about 1716 in Bad Kreuznach, Palatine, Germany to Johannes and Anna Chritine Hohl. His first wife, name unknown, died in the Pfalz Rhineland-Palatinate. It can today be found in the middle Rhine River valley in the west of Germany, bordering France and the state of Saarland to the south, Luxembourg and Belgium to the west, and the states of Nordrhein-Westfalen [North Rhine-Westphalia], Hessen and Baden-Württemberg to the north, east and southeast, respectively. The capital is Mainz. Other important cities are Kaiserslautern, Koblenz (Coblenz), Ludwigshafen, Pirmasens and Trier. He met his future second wife Susannah Margaretha Dieffenbach (sometimes spelled Fleffenbach) in nearby Meisenheim am Glan, a right bank tributary of the Nahe, the name meaning “home of the titmouse,” a bird. Susannah is the daughter of Johann Martin Dieffenbach and Anna Elizabeth Spiess. She is the granddaughter of Wulf Heinrich Dieffenbach, Johannes Spiess, and Elizabeth Zurber. Susannah was born in Oct 1725 in Meisenheim am Glan, Pfalz, Germany and died in 1775 in Barton, Pocahontas, West Virginia.

Susannah Margaretha Dieffenbach is the second cousin of Maria Elizabetha Dieffenbach the wife of ancestor Michael Peter Harness. Maria and Susannah share great grandparents Martin Dieffenbach and Maria Rubesamen.

Peter I arrived in Philadelphia on May 30, 1741 from Rotterdam by way of St. Christopher, Leeward Islands, in the ship “Frances and Ann,” Thomas Coatam, Master. He married Susanna in Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania on November 25, 1750. While in Pennsylvania he worked as a miller on the Susquehanna River. They did not linger long in Pennsylvania. At some time previous to July 2, 1752, he with others of his friends and neighbors relocated to the Shenandoah Valley, into what is now Augusta County, Virginia. On July 2, 1752, Christophel Francisco, by Stephel Francisco, his son and attorney, sold to Peter Hull I, a tract of 230 acres on Cub's Run being part of 5000 acres which are on the Shenandoah River, bounded by a corner of Nicholas Trout's line. The tract is located just south of present-day McGaheysville, Virginia in southeast Rockingham County just seven miles from Harrisonburg, Virginia and two and one-half miles from the Base of Peaked Mountain. Peaked mountain is at the southern end of the Massanutten Range. The Massanutten Ski Resort is on the other side of the mountain. Cub Run Creek flows south-east through fertile and beautiful valleys into the nearby Shenandoah River. The area was home for many settlers from around Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Part of this tract was delivered to Nicholas Trout on January 3, 1753. (Records of Augusta County, Virginia, Volume III, page 305. Originally recorded in Deed Book 4, page 406, Staunton, Virginia).

Nicholas Trout was a friend and neighbor of Peter Hull I. Not long after the property mentioned above was transferred to him, the two men were together in a friendly meeting, when Trout playfully pulled a gun from Hull's hands, pulling the muzzle toward him. The gun went off, killing Trout instantly. An inquest was held and Peter Hull I was completely exonerated. The

following account of this deplorable accident is given in the Augusta County Court Records (1753-54, Part I page 440).

Inquisition on the body of Nicholas Grout (Trout) July 17, 1753. Jurors do say that Nicholas Trout in simplicity, and without malice, playing with Peter Hull, and seizing a gun from said Hull's hand and pulling its muzzle toward him, she accidentally went off without any act or knowledge of the said Hull, and discharged a ball and two great shots into ye breast of said Trout of which he dies immediately on ye spot, and ye gun wherewith the same was done, was entirely in fault for not keeping her bonds, but going off without force or consent. In teste: Peter Scholl, coroner, John Stevenson, Ledwick Francesco, John McMichael, James Bruster, Thomas Wats, Thomas Crawford, Patrick Millican, John Wilson, Jacob Harmon, Niklas Holl (Noll), Hennery Daly, Jacob Nicholas.

Susanna joined her husband in a deed on May 13, 1758 wherein they sold to Charles Rush, for the sum of 22£, 210 acres of the larger tract of land purchased from Francisco (Volume III, page 351, deed book 20, page 8, Stauton, Virginia). Again on June 9, 1764 Peter and Susanna parted with an additional part of the same tract for 60£ current money.

In October 1765 Peter purchased 630 acres in Crabbottom, Virginia from James Trimble for #380. The Hull plantation was situated in what was then known as Crab Tree Bottom (Crabapple Bottom) in that part of Augusta County, Virginia which later became Pendleton County, West Virginia and Highland County, Virginia. He also owned an Inn/Tavern.

Peter I was paid January 18, 1775 for services provided for Dunmore's War. He has DAR record #A059550.

Peter I died in Crabbottom, Pendleton, Virginia, between November 28, 1775 and March 10, 1776 – the dates between the writing and probate of his will. The will was written in German and bequeathed to his wife the Pennsylvania Mare and other livestock plus one-third of the estate. To each of his three eldest daughters he left 20£ and the same to the youngest daughters when they became of age. He left the rest of his estate to his eldest son Peter II. He mentions three different tracts of land, the one on the Jackson River to be sold by his executors, and his wife and son Peter, who were to educate the younger children and bring them up in a Christian-like manner, so long as they behaved dutifully, otherwise they were to be bound out. The will was probated March 19, 1776 (this conflicts with March 10 stated above). On August 16, 1780 there was recorded the vendue bill of Peter Hole's (probably Hull) estate. Those mentioned are Peter Hole, Mrs. Hole, George Hole, Enees/Emes (Anise?) Hole, Leasy (Lizzie/Anna Elizabeth) Hole, Miss Hole. Another person listed is Peter Segefut (probably Catherine Hull's husband Peter Zickafoose).

According to the "Hull Family" manuscript compiled by Moody Hull there are three different lists of children of Peter II and Susanna. The Hull Family Association Journal, Volume 9, Number 3 gives a detailed and convincing analysis of the Hull family.

1. Catherine Margaret Hull born 1751 in Pendleton, Virginia, died 1810 in Highland, Virginia. She married Peter Zickefoose. He was born in 1754 in Crabbottom, Virginia and died there in 1810.
2. Captain Peter Hull II was born about 1752 in Cub Run, Rockingham, Virginia and served as a Revolutionary War soldier. He married Barbara Anne Peninger about 1779. Some records say he married Barbara Anne Keith – unlikely. He died in Crabbottom, Highland, Virginia in January 1818.
3. George Hull born October 15, 1757 in Cubs Run, Rockingham, Virginia – died 1849 in Anthony’s Creek, Greenbrier, West Virginia – married Hannah Keister sister of Esther Keister. Hannah was born in 1757 in Brandywine, Pendleton County, West Virginia and died in 1837 in Hightown, Highland County, Virginia.
4. Margaret Hull born October 21, 1759 in Augusta, Virginia and died January 15, 1820 in Pocahontas, West Virginia. Married Odessus Adam Arbogast. He was born in 1759 in Pendleton, West Virginia and died in 1852 in Pocahontas, West Virginia.
5. Adam Hull born 1760 in Cubs Run, Rockingham Virginia and died in 1838 in Hightown, Highland County, Virginia. He married Esther Keister sister of Hannah Keister in 1792 in Bath, Morgan County, West Virginia. She was born about 1770 in Pendleton, Virginia and died in June 1836 in Hightown, Highland, Virginia.
6. Mary Magdalene Hull was born April 1, 1762 in Augusta, Virginia and died January 16, 1840 in Pendleton, Virginia. She married Abraham Burner. He was born August 15, 1757 in Shenandoah, Virginia and died June 18, 1827 in Bartow, Pocahontas County, Virginia.
7. Anna Elizabeth Hull born 1764 in Tom’s Brook, Shenandoah, Virginia – died 1839 in Pittsburgh, Allegheny, Pennsylvania. She married James Augustine Patterson. He was born in 1760 in York, Pennsylvania and died January 1, 1808 in Pittsburgh, Allegheny, Pennsylvania.
8. Phoebe Anastasia Hull born April 15, 1768 On Cub Run, Highland, Virginia, died May 5, 1815 in Traveler’s Repose, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. She married Johannes John Yeager brother of Johannes George Yeager. He was born May 10, 1762 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and died January 7, 1833 in Traveler’s Repose, Pocahontas County, West Virginia.
9. Eva C. Hull born 1776 in Crabbottom, Virginia, died 1829 in Crabbottom, Augusta County, Virginia. She married Johannes George Yeager brother of Johannes John Yeager. He was born April 7, 1760 in New Hanover, Bucks, Pennsylvania and died in 1823 in Church, Montgomery, Pennsylvania.

Note that Phoebe and Eva Hull married brothers Johannes John and Johan George Yeager – children of Johan Andrew Yeager and Margretha Elizabeth Sommer.

"The will of Peter Thomas Hull I was recorded 19 Mar 1776 in Will Book 5, page 407, Augusta County, Virginia. It reads as follows:"

"In the name of God Amen: The twenty-eighth day of November, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-Five. I, Peter Hohl, of Augusta County and Colony of Virginia, being sick in body but sound in mind and memory, thanks be to Almighty God for the same, do make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First to my dearly beloved wife,

SUSANNAH MARGARET, I give and bequeath a third part of the estate, after all my just debts are paid. My eldest son PETER shall according to my will and desire after my decease give unto his (step) mother the third part or share of the increase of grain the land produces and shall bring the same into the barn and thresh it for her. I likewise bequeath further unto my wife to have a choice of two milk cows and the Pennsylvania mare, also a horse for her to ride and to work, which horse is to remain upon the plantation and not be disposed of. Likewise, the choice of two sheep. The division of my land shall be in the following manner: (1st) the land be surveyed from the lower end on the line up to the Dry Run, (2nd) from the Dry Run up to the Middle Corner tree, (3rd) from the corner tree on up to the Middle Corner tree on the upper land, (4th) from the Middle Corner tree on up to the Upper Corner tree. (5th) The three of my eldest daughters shall be made equal. I bequeath unto them after my decease the sum of Twenty Pounds current money each, and my youngest daughters shall also receive, each of them the sum of Twenty Pounds current money, as soon as they shall attain their age. (6th) I also desire that the three different pieces or parcels of land, viz. the first at the upper trace, the second in the (Vanderpool) Gap, third on Jackson's River, besides an entering, shall be sold at public Vendue, and put to the estate. I empower hereby my eldest son PETER to sell and dispose of the same as my Executor to this my last will and testament, and desire that SUSANNAH MARGARET, my wife and my son PETER shall educate my younger children, in a Christian-like manner, as long as they behave dutiful; otherwise they shall have power to bind them out with this proviso to pay them interest on their money from the day they are bound."

Witnesses present

Bernard Lantz His

Leonard Simon Peter (X) Hohl (L.S.)

Peter Flesher mark

On July 19, 1787 Peter Hull II entered into three separate indentures with his brothers Jacob, George, and Adam Hull for partials of land originally conveyed to Peter Thomas Hull by James Trimble in October 1765.

From 1791 through 1792 Peter Hull II, Adam Hull, George Hull, Peter Zickafoose, and Jacob Bird engaged in a lengthy feud between Abraham Evans and Nicholas Sybert. Jacob Bird is the husband of Elizabeth Yeager who is the daughter of Pheobe Hull and John Yeager. The feud began with a dispute over some cattle where there was an altercation between Abraham Evans and John Yeager with John Yeager allegedly being killed. Evans denied he killed Mr. Yeager and accused the Hulls of unlawfully imprisoning him. Since John Yeager died in 1833 it is evident that Abraham Evans did not kill him in 1791. There were several court cases with allegations of murder, imprisonment, and slander. In 1803 there was a suit filed by John Evans against Peter Hull II and Peter Zickafoose. In 1806 Jacob Hull purchased land from Abraham and Elizabeth Evans. In 1809 Peter Hull II was awarded 42 acres by the court from John and Elizabeth Evans.

<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/3452549/person/-901043011?src=>

<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/3452549/person/-901043011/media/3>

<http://awtc.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=:834506&id=I00109>

Notes for the Children of Peter Hull I and Susannah Dieffenbach

Adam Hull. The 1830 census places the birth of son Adam Hull between 1760 and 1770. He was listed as the head of a household in 1782 so probably married by then.

In 1779 Adam served as a private in brother Captain Peter Hull's Company, 2nd Battalion. In 1779 Captain Adam Hull commanded troops of cavalry in the Yorktown Campaign. In 1780 he served as Captain in the Botetourt County Militia. In 1781 served as Captain in the Battle of Jamestown. DAR# A059459.

Before 1782 Adam married Esther Keister. Esther is sister to Hannah Keister wife of brother George.

On June 8, 1788 was appointed as a Justice in Pendleton County. From 1789 to 1805 served three terms as Pendleton County legislator in the General Assembly of Virginia. In December 1794 was named one of the trustees of the town Franklin, Pendleton County.

There are more than eight land transactions involving Adam.

On May 15, 1836 Adam Hull wrote his will. He mentioned his wife, sons Peter, John, Frederick, Jacob, and slave Abraham. On June 8, 1836 his will was probated in Pendleton County, Virginia.

Burial: Hull Family Cemetery, Hightown (Highland County), Highland County, Virginia.
Inscription: Virginia Pvt. Hull's Co. 2 Augusta Mil. Rev. War. Oldest stone with writing.

George Hull. In 1777 George Hull served in Revolutionary War as Indian Spy under Captain McCoy. He also guarded frontier against Indians. He served in Captain Charles Cameron's at Williamsburg, Virginia and the Battle of Jamestown July 7, 1781 under General Anthony Wayne. DAR #A059487.

There was a trial in September 1794 Commonwealth of Virginia vs George Hull on assault of Patrick Moling Roby.

In 1800 moved from Crabbottom to tract of land in the upper bottoms near the head of the Jackson River in present day Highland County, Virginia.

After the War of 1812 George Hull served as a major of a battalion in the 79th Regiment of the Virginia Militia, Greenbriar County.

On August 27, 1832 George Hull applied for military pension. He began the pension September 11, 1833. The pension was \$40 per month for Revolutionary War services.

George had a large number of land transactions.

He did not leave a will.

Margaret Hull married Odessus Adam Arbogast. Arbogast Military Service: 1779 Pennsylvania Militia, Private in Captain Peter Hull's Company, 2nd Battalion, August County, Virginia. Military Service: Indian spy under Captain John McCoy and Joseph Guinn.

Elizabeth Ann Hull married James Augustine Patterson. James fought in the Revolutionary War (2nd PA Regt., John Patterson's Company). He surveyed and laid out the town of Staunton, Virginia before coming to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The family lived in that part of Virginia (now West Virginia) known as the "Backbone of the Alleghanies" and owned large tracts of land on the South Branch of the Potomac River. He rendered the American cause important service during the War of the Revolution, and for that reason became possessed of sufficient means to purchase a large body of land in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, a part of which is now in the heart of the city of Pittsburgh. Patterson lived on an estate called "Springfield" in what was (in 1898) the 12th, 13th and 15th wards in Pittsburgh. He was allegedly the first lawyer in Pittsburgh. He was originally buried in the Reformed Church graveyard at the corner of 6th and Smithfield Streets but was later moved to the Mt. Lebanon Cemetery.

Catherine Margaret Hull married Peter Zickafoose. The earliest record in Augusta County, Virginia concerning Peter is the time he refused to give in his taxes to the Commissioner according to a report dated 17 July 1787, listing a Peter 'Sickafoss.' See Order Book XX, pages 345 & 346.

Peter Zickafoose died, intestate, leaving above widow and children and George and Elias Zickafoose, the two elder sons, owning land in Pendleton County in Crab Bottom, Elias died shortly after his father, leaving widow Elizabeth and infant children, Susanna, Elias, Elizabeth, Henry and Mary.

Early records indicate that Peter Zigenfuss, settled in Pennsylvania and later moved into Virginia. According to Highland County, Virginia history he owned over 800 acres of land. He married Catherine Hull, the daughter of Peter Thomas Hohl. They were the parents of seven children: Susanna (m. Ruben Buzzard), George (m. Catherine Lance), Fanny (m. Western Mills), Sampson (m. Sara Wade), Sally (m. John Samples), Elias (m. Sara Armentrout), Nancy (m. Henry Fleisher).

From History of Highland County Virginia by Oren F. Morton: p. 87 - Peter lived in Crabbottom, in the same area as Peter Hull and Michael Arbogast, and was there by 1772. p. 111 - By 1800, Peter had 570 acres in what was then Pendelton County and was one of the major landholders.

According to the Highland County, Virginia VaGen Web Page at rootsweb.com, Peter is classified as one of the pioneer settlers of the county, but the family name is now extinct in that county, according to Morton's History of Highland County. According the same web site, the information below comes from the Surveyor's Office of Augusta Co. and the Land Office of Va.: In 1772, 250 acres in Crabbottom, from the corner to Arbogast's, were surveyed for Peter Zickafoose, and then he received a patent in 1789. This shows he was the original settler. In 1781, 218 acres were surveyed on the Bullpasture (a river), adjacent to Robert Carlisle. In 1782,

106 acres were surveyed adjacent to himself. In 1785, 112 acres were surveyed in Crabbottom and he received a patent in 1789. In 1786, 40 more acres surveyed adjacent to himself. In 1786, 78 acres near Doe Hill and 82 acres on Crab Run near Beathe were surveyed. In 1789 250 acres on Crabbottom were surveyed and patent was received.

Phoebe Anastasia Hull married Johannes John Yeager. For well nigh a hundred years the Yeager name has been a familiar one. The Yeager relationship derive their name from John Yeager, an immigrant from Pennsylvania, reared near Lancaster City. From the most authentic information available for these notes, he first located in Crabbottom. Upon his marriage with Anise Hull, a granddaughter of Peter Hull I one of the original settlers of the Crabbottom section, they settled at Travelers Repose. He served in Captain Peter Hull's Company of the Second Battalion of the Augusta Militia.

Eva C. Hull married Johannes George Yeager the brother of Johannes John Yeager.

Mary Magdalena Hull married Abraham Burner. Abraham was born in Shenandoah County, Virginia, son of Earhart Burner. He died, June 28, 1827. Enlisted, January, 1777, and February or March, 1778, and served two years as private under Captains Mathias Hite and Rinker, Eighth Virginia Regiment, Continental Establishment commanded by Colonel Bowman.

Abraham married, Mary Magdalene Hull, June 5, 1780, Pendleton County, Virginia. They had seven sons and two daughters. Soldier applied for pension, October 25, 1819, Randolph County, Virginia. Certificate issued, November 27, 1819. Widow applied for pension, June 3, 1839, and certificate was issued February 20, 1840. She was born in Pendleton County, Virginia, about 1763 and died January 18, 1840, before the pension in her favor had been granted, so it was paid to four living children.

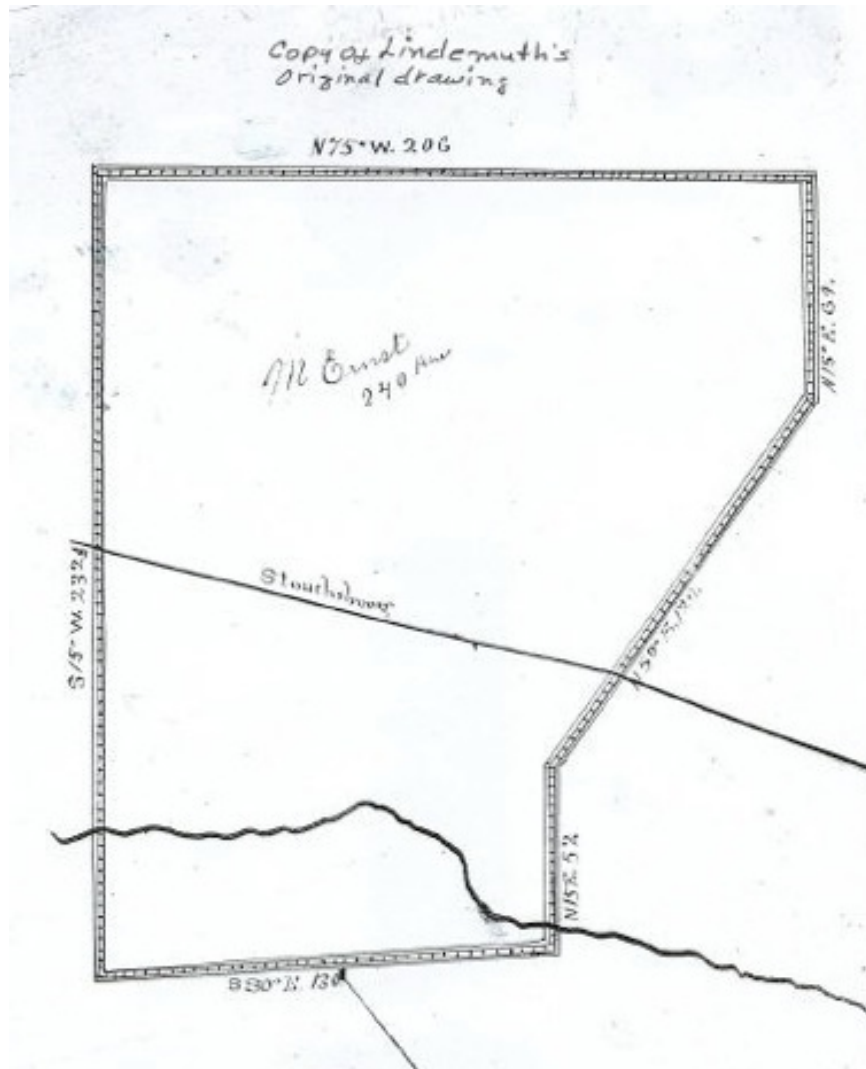
The Harnesses at Tulpehocken Settlement

In 1723, Palatine emigrants from New York, fed up with the way they had been treated there, negotiated with Governor William Keith of the Pennsylvania Colony to move to an area along Tulpehocken Creek at the foot of the Blue Mountains in Pennsylvania's eastern Chester (later Berks County). Thirty-three families were in the first group to arrive there in 1723 and they were followed by others within the next few years, and soon the Tulpehocken settlement was a thriving place. The Palatines did not experience the restrictions and animosities they had faced in New York and that was probably due, in part, to the fact that Pennsylvania was a proprietary colony, presented by the Royal Crown to William Penn, a member of the Society of Friends (Quakers) to pay a debt owed to Penn's father. Penn admired the Palatines and their work ethic.

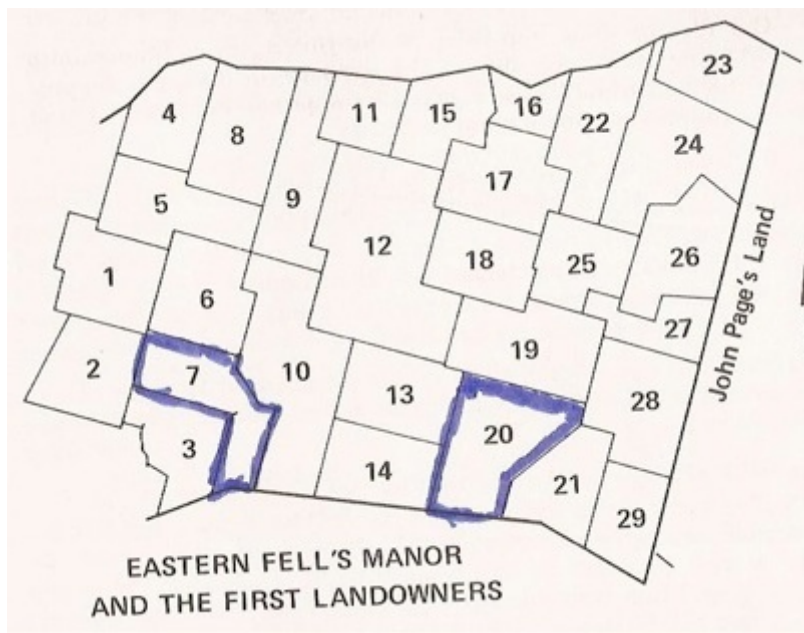
NOTE: When Admiral Sir William Penn died in 1670, he was owed 16,000 pounds (about \$100,000) by the English government for back pay and damage he suffered during the Dutch War. That debt was inherited by his son, William Penn. He was 36 years old when he received a charter from King Charles II for the Province of what would become Pennsylvania in payment of

the debt owed his father. It was a large tract of unexplored territory inhabited mostly by Indians. The land was surveyed and proprietary Manors were set up for Penn and his heirs. Many of the tracts within the Manors were set aside by Penn and his heirs for their own use. Portions were later sold to others. William Penn died in 1718 in England.

It is believed that Michael Ernst Harness, Sr. arrived in Tulpehocken probably from the Schoharie settlement in New York sometime between 1725 and 1728. He is listed on the property assessment roles for 1725 as owning 240 acres adjoining Tulpehocken Creek and he is listed as a property owner on a map and sketch (shown below) drawn by C. I Lindemuth and based on a 1723 survey now in the possession of the Tulpehocken Settlement Historical Society:



Note in the sketch and the topo map below that the modern day community of Stouchsburg goes right through part of the former Ernst Harness plat.



The Harness property was located in Eastern Fell's Manor (on maps above). It was a part of Fell's Manor which occupied just under 10,000 acres in Marion Township. The 240 acre Harness tract is identified as # 20 on the map, and to the west, on the tract identified as # 7, is the 170 acre tract owned by Harness' brother-in-law, Adam Defenbach (Dieffenbach). Adam's father, Johann Conrad Dieffenbach, had bequeathed the tract to his son in 1737, a year or so before Johann Conrad's death. Both the Ernst (Harness) and Dieffenbach tracts abutted Tulpehocken Creek. Just to the north of the Adam Dieffenbach tract is tract # 6. According to Tulpehocken Settlement Historical Society records, it was the property of Johann George Rieth. His wife was

Catherine Margareta Defenback (Dieffenbach), a daughter of Johann Conrad Dieffenbach's by his first wife in Germany. Margareta came to America with Dieffenbach and his new wife and family.

NOTE: Gulielma Marie Penn, a granddaughter of Pennsylvania's founder, William Penn, and her second husband, Charles Fell, initially held the proprietary rights to all of Fell's Manor, but apparently made no effort to get a patent for it. The Manor changed hands several times. In 1735 or so, it was sold to Casper Wistar, a Philadelphia brass button maker. It is from Wistar that Ernst (Harness) and Dieffenbach obtained the deeds to their respective tracts. It is not known how much Ernst (Harness) paid for his property, but information from the Tulpehocken Settlement Historical Society indicates that Dieffenbach paid 68 pounds for his tract.

Here are two other photo views taken from the former Ernst Harness farm at Tulpehocken in a visit to that area in 2006 by James T. Yocum. The photo below is looking west from the Harness farm (the stream is Tulpehocken Creek)



The photo below looks south across the former Harness farm property:

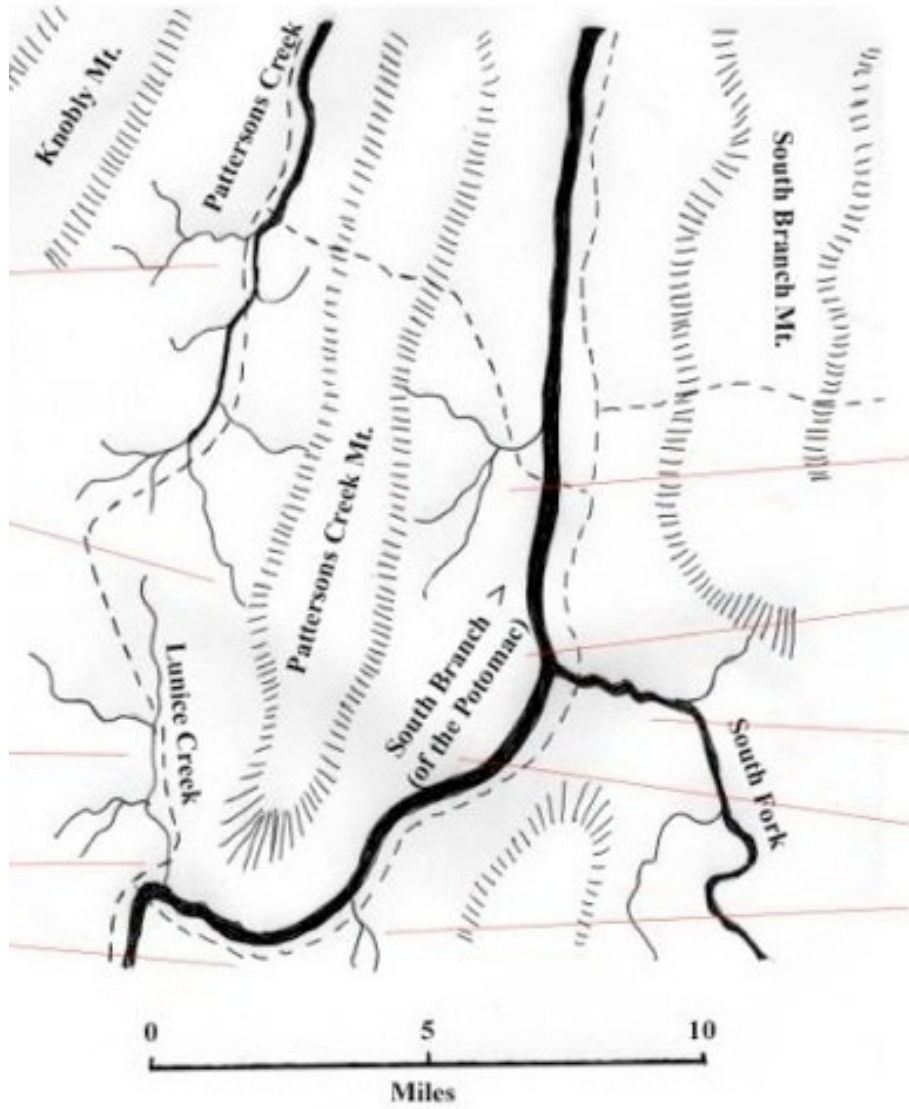


Most researchers believe that Michael Ernst Harness, Sr. and his wife, Elizabeth, lived in the Tulpehocken settlement for 12 to 13 years. It is believed that 7 of the couple's 13 children (Michael, Jr., Elizabeth, Conrad, Barbara Rebecca, Jacob (the first son who had that name), John and Adam) were all born there.

Family tradition has it that in 1738 while a resident of Tulpehocken Settlement township, Michael Ernst Harness heard about a valley along the South Branch of the Potomac river (known then by its Indian name, the Wappocomo), on the Virginia colony's rugged western frontier.

Four men had been sent out from Winchester, Virginia by British Lord Fairfax in 1737. Lord Fairfax had inherited a large amount of land in that rugged unexplored wilderness and he came to America expressly to try and get a better idea of what his inheritance was like and what he might do with it to make some money. So he sent the four men to scout out the area.

The 4 men apparently made such a favorable report upon their return that Michael Ernst (Harness), along with friends Matthias Yoakum and George (Jorg) Stump reportedly set out in the spring of 1738 from Winchester with the idea of determining whether they wanted to settle their families in the South Branch Valley. According to Yoakum's grandson, George Yoakum, in the Draper papers, "*they came by way of Winchester, then up Big Capon, Lost River and to the mountain. Crossing over the mountain, they came to the south fork of the South Branch*". The men, so family tradition tells, liked what they saw and two of them, Yoakum and Michael Ernst (Harness), returned with their families the following year (1739) to become early settlers of the rugged western Virginia colony.



Family tradition indicates that Michael, Sr. and his family settled on a large tract of land on the west bank of the South Branch of the Potomac River. The land was said to have been located between Buzzard’s Ford, which is near the modern-day Fisher community to the west of Moorefield, West Virginia, to a place now known as Mike’s Ford about five miles to the south. Michael’s original “tomahawk” land claim may have stretched 3 or 4 miles along the west side of the river, but that remains at this point in the area of family tradition, not verified fact.

Whether he knew it at the time is not clear, but the area where Michael Ernst (Harness, Sr.) and his family settled on the South Branch and where he chose to build his home was on Lord Fairfax’s huge inherited estate, a portion of which the British lord some years later on his second trip to America would designate as South Branch Manor. Lord Fairfax sent surveyors, including a 16 year old apprentice surveyor from Winchester named George Washington, out to survey his inheritance with the idea of marking off lots and selling them. There was one big problem; Michael Ernst (Harness, Sr.) along with a growing number of other settlers, many of them, like

Ernst (Harness) Palatine emigrants, were already “squatting” on the land and they considered it theirs already....free and clear.

The Harness family homeplace is about 5 miles southwest of Moorefield, West Virginia not far from an area known locally as "Mike's Rocks" - a rocky face on the hillside where "the ridge terminates at the river" or, in other words, "Mike's Ford." Almost certainly both were named for Michael Harness.

Lord Fairfax: **This land is my land!** *All 5 million acres of it...*

To say that grants of land in the early years of the Virginia colony were confusing is, at best, an understatement. The King of England decided that the colony and its land were a part of his manoral holdings, so he could make land grants and he did so. On the other hand, the governor of the Virginia colony decided the colonial government could grant land on its own to those who would agree to bring more people into the colony to settle it.

And thus the groundwork was laid for mass confusion. And then there were the settlers, including Michael Ernst Harness, Sr. and Peter Thomas Hull I, who just arrived and settled the land, believing that they had “squatter” rights to the land they chose and did not need any formal grants from anyone.



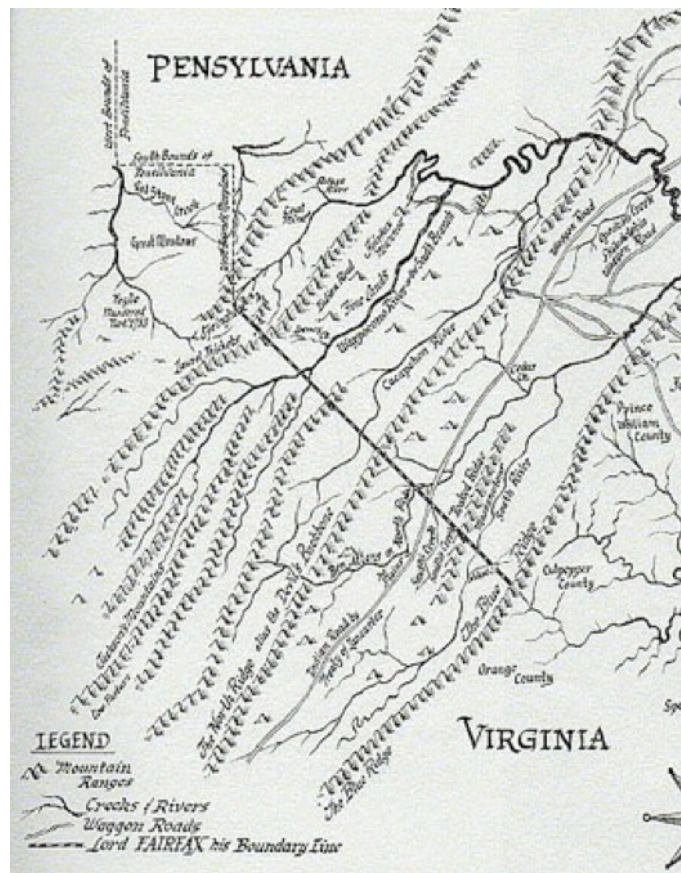
The ingredients for the ownership controversy in the vast wilderness of the far western Virginia colony’s frontier had its beginning in the late 1720’s in the person of a New York fur trader named John Van Meter (1683-1745). He had traveled among the Indian tribes for some years, supplying them with a variety of goods in exchange for furs. He became so impressed with the wilderness area of which the South Branch was a part, that he and his brother, Isaac Van Meter (1692-1757) in 1730 obtained a grant from the colonial government at Williamsburg for 40,000 acres, on the condition that they settle one family per thousand acres within two years.

John and Isaac were sons of early settler Joost Jansen Van Meter. In 1757 Isaac Van Meter was killed and scalped by Indians, only a short distance outside of his fort.

A year later, in 1731, a wealthy Pennsylvania linen weaver turned grist mill operator named Jost Hite bought out the Van Meter brothers grant. Jost Hite and a man named Robert McKay later that same year (1731) managed to get the colonial government to grant them an additional 100,000 acres in the same area, subject to the same conditions of settlement.

Hite and McKay, along with two other men, Robert Green and William Duff, set up a land company for the express purpose of selling off parcels of the wilderness land. Meantime, the Virginia colonial government, for whatever reason, started making land grants of its own in the same area about 1731-32.

While Jost was trying to straighten the matter out with the colonial government, Thomas, sixth Lord Fairfax, Baron of Cameron in Scotland, arrived in Virginia in May, 1735. He was looking into his vast inheritance on the rugged and unexplored western frontier of the Virginia colony. That inheritance covered over 5 million acres between the Rappahannock and Potomac rivers, often referred to in legal documents of those times as the “Northern Neck.” It included a great portion of the Shenandoah Valley, territory that today encompasses 35 Virginia and West Virginia counties.



Lord Fairfax had inherited all this land (shown on above map prepared after a 1746 survey by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson) from his mother, Catherine. She was the daughter of Thomas Lord Culpeper, who was one of eight trusted supporters that King Charles II had granted vast areas of land in America in 1649 while the king was in exile in France. By 1681, Lord Culpeper was Governor of the Virginia colony and had managed to gain control of almost all of the lands that King Charles II had originally granted.

And so Lord Fairfax arrived in America to get a better idea of just what his inheritance really amounted to. It didn't take long for him to realize that the Virginia colonial government had issued settlement grants to Hite and McKay on his inherited property. In fact, enough settlers had moved onto the land to satisfy the conditional grants. Lord Fairfax tried to work things out with Jost Hite, but he was not successful. To verify and document his holdings, Lord Fairfax dispatched 4 men in 1737 to the area to find out what was going on.

Major William Mayo was the head of that survey expedition. The survey result provided the first useful map of the region. The result of the survey also brought the first grumbling over the extent of Lord Fairfax's land claim. The king's commissioners made it clear that they felt no man should be allowed to own so much land (except, the king, of course).

Lord Fairfax returned home to England in 1737. As it turned out, no western boundary had ever been established for the inherited land of Lord Fairfax. The Virginia colony at the time was considered to extend as far west as the Mississippi river. King George II took care of that little problem in 1738 by establishing a straight line 76 miles long from the head of the Rapidan river to the head of the North fork of the Potomac as the western boundary. It became known as the "Fairfax Line."

The establishment of the "Fairfax Line" caused Hite and his associates to file suit in 1749 and that litigation went on for 37 years. It was eventually settled in favor of Hite, but by that time he and Lord Fairfax were dead. In 1746, an expedition of 40 men (including Peter Jefferson, father of Thomas Jefferson) spent 127 days mapping the whole Northern Neck of Virginia. It further delineated Lord Fairfax's huge land holdings.

In 1747 Lord Fairfax returned to America, this time to stay. In 1748 he made the acquaintance of 16 year old George Washington. He was so impressed with young Washington's energy and talents that he employed him to help plat lots for his proprietary lands lying west of the Blue Ridge in part of the South Branch. James Genn, a veteran surveyor, was in charge of the operation and young Washington was an apprentice. George Washington's brother, Lawrence, was related by marriage to Lord Fairfax, so that might have had something to do with the Lord's decision to hire young George for the survey team.

In his journal of 1748, Washington described his first journey into the South Branch over 40 miles *"of the worst road that was ever trod by man or beast."* Young Washington and his associates had been commissioned to determine who was "squatting" illegally on Lord Fairfax's land, and how much land they occupied.

Lord Fairfax later moved to the valley himself in 1752, establishing his residence at “Greenway Court”, just a few miles from Winchester. He had grandiose plans for what amounted to a palace, but those plans never really materialized.

Lord Fairfax had the payment lease structure set up in such a way that he would be assured of a perpetual annual income. He required a small sum, usually 2 and one-half cents an acre, sometimes less, as a down payment. Then the lease-holder would pay a similar amount to Lord Fairfax each year. Historian Hugh Maxwell, writing in Maxwell and Swisher’s *“History of Hampshire County”*, published in 1897, said this about Lord Fairfax:

“He was greedy and overbearing, and if a person settled and improved his lands without title and afterwards applied to Lord Fairfax for title, he took advantage of it and charged them more, thinking that they would pay it rather than give up their improvements.”

Lord Fairfax kept 561 acres in Patterson Creek Manor for himself. His lot(s) fronted on both sides of the river, according to most reference sources. If he had succeeded in disposing of all his lands on his regular terms, his perpetual income would have been around \$150,000 a year. But it didn’t turn out that way. The American Revolution brought an end to Lord Fairfax’s money-making plans.

Lord Fairfax always considered himself a British subject and during the Revolutionary War he was sympathetic, in a generally quiet way, to the British side in the conflict. His long-standing friendship with General George Washington undoubtedly saved him and his vast estate. When Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown in 1781 Lord Fairfax took to his bed and died soon after his 92nd birthday.

By that time Thomas Jefferson was leading a movement to break up large estates such as that owned by Lord Fairfax. The movement was successful and the huge Fairfax estate was confiscated by Virginia, except those tracts of land that had already been sold. The owners of those tracts were given clear title. The rest was put up for sale to the public and by 1810 some 200,000 people owned property in the vast former Fairfax Estate.

Harness Life and times ...on the South Branch



Squeezed dramatically between two Appalachian ridges, the South Branch of the Potomac River between Moorefield and Romney, West Virginia, cuts its way through a wild and narrow wooded canyon known as the Trough.

The South Branch originates in today's Highland County, Virginia (the South Fork of the South Branch) and in the mountainous terrain of West Virginia (the North Fork of the South Branch).



The river travels northward in its course toward Potomac Forks at Oldtown, Maryland where it merges with the North Branch to form the main stem of the Potomac. Along its course it travels through the steep, forested Appalachian Mountains and through forests and sheer sandstone cliffs of Nelson and Seneca Rocks. The South Branch was a wild and wooly place...the rugged western frontier of the Virginia colony... when Michael Ernst Harness, Sr. and his family arrived there about 1738.

Benjamin F. Van Meter, in his book *“Genealogies and Sketches of Some Old Families Who Have Taken A Prominent Part In the Development of Virginia and Kentucky,”* said of the Harness family on the South Branch in the mid 1700’s:

“The Harness family was not only enterprising, but a fearless, daring and reckless family. Three of Michael’s sons were scalped by the Indians, and the family had many reckless adventures and narrow escapes.”



The topo map above, prepared by James T. Yocum, shows the location of several families homes on the South Branch. At the center of the map is the location of *Hawthorne*, the home of Michael Ernst Harness, Sr. and his family. It is just southwest of Ft. Harness (today’s Water Edge Farm) in the Fisher community southwest of Moorefield. The story of Fort Harness and *Hawthorne* may be found later in this document.

To the northeast of Moorefield, at the top of the map, is the Matthias Yoakum farm. He is one of the two men who accompanied Michael Ernst Harness, Sr. on his first, exploratory trip to the South Branch in 1738-39. Like Ernst, Matthias brought his family to the South Branch a year or so later, and they became early settlers of the far western wilderness of the Virginia colony.

At the bottom of the map is the location of the Stump Run farm of Michael Stump(f) on the South Fork. It is believed that Michael Ernst Harness, Sr. built his first cabin on the South Fork not far from the Stump farm before later moving to the west of the South Branch, southwest of Fisher. Stump is the brother of Jorg Stumpf, the other man who accompanied Michael Ernst Harness on that first exploratory trip. While it is not believed that Jorg Stumpf (George Stump) returned to the South Branch with his family as a settler, his brother Michael did.



The Stump Run farm and homestead (Michael Stump's log cabin) have been restored and the farm is a National Historic Landmark.

In 1745 all that portion of the colony of Virginia which lay west of the Blue Ridge Mountains was made into a county named Augusta. The bounds of the new county were North by Fairfax's Northern Neck Grant and the boundaries of Maryland and Pennsylvania to the Westward of Fairfax, on the East by Blue Ridge Mountains, on South by the Carolina line. From that time other counties were created. From this area there gradually emerged the present day counties of Augusta, Albemarle, Fluvanna, and Goochland Counties in western Virginia and Pendelton and Hardy County in eastern West Virginia. Many of our ancestors lived in this area. The area includes the Crabbottom community.

Many of the Hull family lived and died in Crabbottom, Virginia. Where is Crabbottom? It is now mostly in Pendelton County, West Virginia and Highland County, Virginia. The original

Crabbottom is very near the present Blue Grass, Virginia. Blue Grass is an unincorporated community on VA 642 at its junction with VA 640 in Highland County, Virginia. Blue Grass lies along the South Branch Potomac River. It was previously known as Crabbottom and Hulls Store before the Board on Geographic Names officially decided upon Blue Grass in 1950. Blue Grass is just northwest of Possum Trot, Virginia and a few miles due north of Monterey, Virginia

It appears that Crabbottom made up a lot of territory according to maps and the many places named above. The colony of Virginia and the county of Augusta were also much larger than the present day state of Virginia and county of Augusta. The Shawnees, about 150 strong, had control of this area at this time. There were many secret Indian trails throughout this area and our ancestor's really pioneered throughout this area just to survive.



Crabbottom Area

Harness Family Neighbors ...on the South Branch

Some of the Harness family's neighbors on the South Branch in the mid to late 1700's were also from the Lower Palatinate, such as the Stump's and the Fisher's. But others were Dutch. Some of them made their initial acquaintance on the South Branch, while others had met earlier in emigrant camps in New York or the Pennsylvania colony.

The family names were spelled many different ways as they evolved from the old world spelling to a more Americanized version. Thus we had the Yocum's (Yokem, Yoakum) the See's (Zeh), the Stump's (Stumpf), the Van Meter's (VanMetre), the Fisher's (Fischer), Welton's, Innskeep's and the Parsons', among others.

Perhaps the Yocum's and the See's were the closest friends of the early Ernst (Harness) family, or at least that would appear to be the case from research available at this time. Matthias Yocum was with Michael, Sr. on his initial scouting trip to the South Branch in 1738. Matthias was not believed to have been an emigrant. Several researchers believe that the family had lived in New Amsterdam (later to become New York City) for a couple of generations. Matthias was probably

born in New Amsterdam. Sometime around 1730 or so he decided to move to the Pennsylvania colony, and it was there, probably in Tulpehocken township, that he met Michael Harness, Sr.

George Ludwig Zeh (See) and his wife Margaret, Palatine emigrants, arrived in America on one of the ships that was part of the Palatine emigration from London to New York in 1710, as was the Ernst Harness family. The See's, like the Ernst/Harness', lived for a time in the Schoharie emigrant camp in New York province and at Tulpehocken township in Pennsylvania before coming to the South Branch.

The Stump's also spent some time in the Tulpehocken settlement in Pennsylvania prior to coming to the South Branch. It is likely that Michael I. Stump's brother, Jorg, is the same George Stump who, with Michael Harness, Sr. and Mathias Yocum, made that initial scouting trip to the South Branch in 1738. There is no known record that George (Jorg) Stump returned with his family to the South Branch later as a permanent settler. But his brother, Michael I. Stump, did and built his family home on the South Fork of the South Branch, not far from Michael Ernst Harness, Sr.'s original cabin. Harness later moved his family to the west side of the South Branch in the vicinity of today's Fisher community.

There were other neighbors:

...including the Welton's. Solomon Welton, an emigrant from Wales in that part of England known as Scotland, arrived on the South Branch about 1745.

The Parsons family, was of British ancestry but Thomas Parsons, Sr. was likely born in Maryland. He owned several tracts of land on the South Branch from 1761-1768.

There also were the Cunningham's, emigrants from Dublin, Ireland and the VanMetre's (Van Meter), a well-to-do family of Dutch origin. Both of these families were among the earliest settlers on the South Branch. The Cunningham's were to become victims of one of the worst Indian massacres that occurred on the western Virginia frontier. The Van Meter's would become prominent politically and militarily, during the years leading up to and including the Revolutionary war.

The South Branch families *...where they lived*

The map at the below left provides some idea of the relative proximity of Moorefield, Fisher and Petersburg as well as Walnut Bottom on the South Branch. Michael Ernst Harness, Sr. and several of his sons built homes in the Fisher area. Son Leonard, built a home in Walnut Bottom, further north along Lunice (Looney's) creek.



Lunice Creek (in colonial times called Looney’s Mill Creek) is a tributary of the South Branch Potomoc River. It is in present day Grant County, West Virginia. The creek, approximately 15 miles in length, empties into the South Branch at Petersburg.

In colonial times the creek was the most remote western settlement on the South Branch. The creek took its original name (Looney’s Mill Creek) from a man named Robert Looney. He built and operated a mill adjacent to the creek near where it flows into the James River in the vicinity of Purgatory Mountain. In 1742 Looney operated Looney’s ferry, the first crossing over the James River in the region. Four of Michael Ernst Harness’ sons (Conrad, Michael, Jr., Leonard and Peter) lived along Looney’s Creek.

Family legend says that in 1758 Conrad Harness and his wife and infant daughter, along with the infant daughter of Conrad’s brother, Leonard, were killed in an Indian ambush in Welton’s meadow on Looney’s Creek, not far from their home. They were reportedly returning from a christening at the time of the incident.

In 1763, Michael Harness, Jr. was killed by Indians in the same meadow, while he and some other neighbors were helping Job Welton’s father harvest some crops on his land. That attack took place along Looney’s Creek in Welton’s Meadow. It was the practice of the settlers in times of danger to leave the forts in numbers and assist each other at harvest time.

Leonard Harness lived in what was known as the Walnut Bottom area along the northern portion of the creek before he and his family left for Illinois country sometime after 1782.

Peter Harness and his family also are believed to have lived in the Looney’s Creek area before moving to Ohio in 1811.

The Indian encounters



Two European nations, first France and later England, were responsible for stirring up native American Indian tribes in the years prior to and during the American Revolution, and encouraging them to attack and massacre settlers on the Virginia western frontier, including the South Branch. The area was not home ground to any of the tribes. Their home grounds were in Ohio Country, but the Shawnee's particularly used the South Branch area as hunting grounds.



First, there was the War of 1755, then Pontiac's war of 1763, Dunmore's War of 1774 and finally the Revolutionary War itself.

In the Revolutionary War, the British took the place of the French as allies of the Indians, arming them and sending them against the settlers. For at least part of that time, the British paid the Indians a bounty on every scalp taken, and they made no distinction between man, woman or child.

John Harness Family

John Harness was born in 1725 in Bucks, Pennsylvania to Michael Peter Harness and Maria Elizabetha Dieffenbach. John died April 28, 1810 in Hardy County, West Virginia. **Eunice Pettice** (also Petty) was born February 20, 1737 in Isle, Jersey, Channel Islands and died June 16, 1823 in Hardy, West Virginia. The family estate was inventoried November 14, 1823 after the death of Eunice. John and Eunice had ten children:

1. George Harness, son of John Harness and Eunice Pettice was born on 02 Jan 1759 in

Virginia. He died on 27 Aug 1816 in Moorefield, West Virginia. He married Rebecca Ann Casey. She was born on 17 Apr 1765 in Hardy, Bedford, Virginia. She died on 27 May 1824 in Hardy, Bedford, Virginia.

Notes for George Harness: George Harness and his wife Rebecca Ann Casey are believed to have lived along Patterson Creek in Hampshire County, West Virginia. On October 15, 1794, a bill of sale was recorded from George Harness and wife Rebecca for 450 acres on Patterson Creek to Adam Harness, Jr. The actual sale appears not to have occurred until January 2, 1795. In about 1798 George and Rebecca, left Hampshire County, West Virginia where they had both been born and raised, and came by horseback and wagon to the new Northwest Territory (which later became the state of Ohio). They purchased some land (1,765 acres near the Scioto River in Ross County) in a government land sale, but the government granted deed for it was not signed until Ohio became a state in 1803. (The original deeds signed by President Thomas Jefferson and his Secretary of State, James Madison was in 2007 in the possession of Robert Harness III, a descendant of George Harness. The 89-year-old Robert still lived on the original George Harness homestead farm near Chillicothe, Ohio at that time. He had the original deeds wrapped in a blanket and kept away from light. George Harness and his wife arrived in what would become Ross County, Ohio about the same time as George's brother, Joseph, and his wife, the former Rebecca Williams. The two families farms adjoined each other. The Harness family worked hard to open the frontier land into a farmstead. Their connections back in Virginia may have helped. Those connections reportedly included George Washington, who may have visited the Ohio farm at one time, according to family tradition. The Harness family quickly developed a reputation as breeders of fine horses and good cattle. The George Harness farm maintained its status for many years as a place where fine racing horses were bred. At some point the farm even included a horse racetrack, but it was destroyed in the 1937 Great Scioto River flood, as were most of the buildings on the farm. Coming as it did at the end of the great depression, the family's desire to continue in horse racing was also apparently destroyed.

2. Jemima Harness, daughter of John Harness and Eunice Pettice was born on 17 Nov 1760 in Hardy, Virginia. She died on 24 Jan 1827 in Hardy, Virginia. She married William Cunningham. He was born on 20 May 1760 in Virginia. He died on 15 Jan 1823 in Hardy, Virginia.

Notes for Jemima Harness: Burial: Welton Cemetery (Near Moorefield), Hardy County, West Virginia.

3. Adam Harness, son of John Harness and Eunice Pettice was born in 1762 in Hardy, Bedford, Virginia. He died on 16 Feb 1829 in Hardy, Bedford, Virginia. He married Elizabeth Baker. She was born on 20 May 1760 in Hardy, Bedford, Virginia. She died on 03 Jul 1826 in Virginia.

Notes for Adam Harness: Adam Harness was granted a lease by Lord Fairfax on Lot # 39 (350 acres) of South Branch Manor on August 3, 1773, according to Mike Crites, who was raised and still resides in the Moorefield, West Virginia area. Crites, who in 2005 was conducting research on the ownership origins of a number of properties in the Fisher, West Virginia area, also said that John Harness (who died about 1806), willed Lot # 48,

on which his home (Fort Harness) was located, to son Adam. When Adam died in 1829 he left no will. His estate, including the site of Harness Fort, was divided equally among his children. In 1781-82, Adam Harness is listed on the Hampshire County, Virginia Personal Property Tax list as having 10 horses, 24 cattle and 1 slave. In 1830, George Morgan Fisher, who had married Mary Ann Harness, a daughter of Jacob and Eunice Petty Harness and thus a cousin of Adam, started purchasing Adam Harness' estate from his children. By 1833 Fisher owned all of the property, including the site of Fort Harness.

4. Rebecca Harness, daughter of John Harness and Eunice Pettice was born in 1764 in Hampshire County, West Virginia. She died on 12 Jun 1810 in Pendleton County, West Virginia. She married John Cunningham. He was born in 1776 in Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland. He died in Hardy, Bedford, West Virginia.
5. John Harness, son of John Harness and Eunice Pettice was born in 1768 in Bucks, Pennsylvania. He died on 04 Sep 1804 in Hardy County, West Virginia. He married Hannah Inskeep. She was born on 19 Apr 1769 in Hardy, Bedford, Virginia. She died in Mar 1847.

Notes for John Harness: Very little is known of John Harness save that at the time of his death he apparently lived at Skipton, Maryland (now Oldtown). He died before 1803 for under date of 3 July his widow records names of three slaves to which she was entitled by marriage to the late John Harness, dec'd. (Allegheny Co., Md. Deeds Bk. E. p. 174) In Will Bk. a pp. 61 and 78 Ibid are found some record of his estate by Joseph Inskeep who was appointed administrator. His widow Hannah was appointed guardian of the children (Ibid. Bk. A p. 78). Allegany, County, lying between Garrett and Washington Counties, with the Potomac river separating it from West Virginia on the south, and Pennsylvania bounding it on the north, was first settled about 1735-41. Skipton, now called Oldtown, probably was the first settlement. Capt. Thomas Cresap established Skipton, which was located about twelve miles east of Cumberland.

- a. Joseph Harness, son of John Harness and Eunice Pettice was born in 1770 in Moorefield, Hardy, West Virginia. He died on 03 Jul 1821 in Ross, Ohio. He married Rebecca Williams. She was born in Feb 1773 in Salem, Salem, New Jersey. She died on 28 Mar 1836 in Ross, Ohio.

Notes for Joseph Harness: Joseph Harness first came to the Northwest Territory (which later would become Ross County, Ohio in the vicinity of Chillicothe) in about 1798, according to notes kept by Joseph's friend, Felix Renick, and later published as part of a book entitled "Felix Renick, Pioneer" by Charles Summer Plumb, professor of Animal Husbandry at Ohio State University. According to that book, Joseph with friends Felix Renick and Leonard Stump set out from the South Branch of Virginia about October 1, 1798 for Ohio. The long slow journey took them eventually to the Chillicothe, Ohio area, which Renick described in his notes as "no town, no commerce, no steamboats." Probably not, because the town of Chillicothe had only been laid out two years earlier. The book says the men returned home to Virginia, apparently with a good impression that the Scioto river valley of Ohio would be a good place to farm. It is unclear when Joseph Harness returned to Ohio to live. He had married Rebecca W. Williams in Moorefield, Hardy County, Virginia on March 22, 1796. While not documented, it would

appear that Joseph and Rebecca immigrated to Ohio around 1799. Joseph had a federal land grant under the Script Warrant Act of 1790. Various publications (see below) indicate that in 1799 or 1800 he purchased sections 9, 10, and 11 on the High Bank Prairie (approximately 1200 acres) in the federal government's first land sale in Ross County. Joseph built a large brick home in Ross County. As of 2002, when Gerald Harness visited the area, and said that the home still stands, has been restored and the current owner is trying to have it registered as a historic landmark. The restored home of Joseph Harness is adjacent to another farm (1,128 acres), which was originally owned by John George Harness. Gerald Harness said that farm as of 2002 is now owned by Robert Lee Harness, John George's gggrandson. Gerald says Robert Lee told him that when he received the farm it was in terrible shape, but Gerald says a lot of hard work has transformed the place into a beautiful farm. He says the homestead looks almost new. There are some interesting accounts as to how Joseph Harness managed to purchase so much of the land at the sale. The following is from a book *"Pioneer Record of Ross County, Ohio."* One of the very first settlements made in Ross County was the Highbank Prairie in Liberty Township. Among the earlier settlers who came out to make a crop preparatory to a settlement, were Thomas and Zebulon Orr, who raised corn on the Highbank in 1798 or 1799, also Robert Corhen, Benjamin Kerns, Amos Taylor, and others--indeed, this was the center of the settlement, and the bank east of this rich and fertile prairie soon became lined with cabins, and so continued up to the time of the land sale. Since the Government sold no smaller tracts than a section, it was the purpose of most of these early settlers to club together and buy homes on this prairie. But on the day of sale, when these lands were sold, the crier, instead of naming them the Highbank Lands, offered them as the lands lying at the mouth of Indian creek, and they were bought by Benjamin Kerns, Felix Rennick, and Joseph Harness, except the upper fractional section, which was bought by James Kilgore and a Mr. Holton. This made a scattering of the pioneers then settled along the bank, most of whom fell back upon the flats or second bottoms and uplands--some even seeking the hills on account of health and game. Many of the original settlers were convinced that there was bribery used in the selling of the Highbanks Land. Who the party guilty of the bribery of the crier was, seemed to be indicated by several circumstances that followed soon after the sale. The first wheat raised on the Highbank was by Mr. Kerns, who was permitted to get it harvested and stacked, soon after which it was fired in the night and burned up. Among the first patches cleared in the upland by Mr. Kerns was for an orchard. Before fully completing the clearing, and while the log-heaps were on fire, Mr. Kerns had his apple-trees planted. These trees were obtained at a considerable cost, as there were no nurseries yet in this country. A night or two after the trees were all set out, and before the remains of the log-heaps had burned out, some person or persons went and pulled up every tree in the orchard, and laid the roots in the fire. Another account of the land sale is found in the State Centennial History of the County of Ross (Ohio). It says that many of the earliest arrivals in what became Liberty township, Ross County, (but at the time part of the Northwest Territory), settled on the High Bank prairie and other desirable locations before the opening of the land sales. They were "squatters" and

according to this publication, Joseph Harness (and his friend, Felix Renick) was among the "squatters". This publication also notes that Renick, Joseph Harness and a third man, Benjamin Kerns, bought all of the High Bank prairie land during the sale, except for a fractional section that went to two men...a James Kilgore and a man identified only as Mr. Holton. The other settlers who had failed in their efforts to buy the land on which they had "squatted" in advance of the sale, fell back to the flats or second bottoms. ---Source for above: pages 356-357 of State Centennial History of the County of Ross (Ohio). Joseph Harness at some point was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Ross County. He is listed in the Ohio census as living in Ross County in 1807, in the first district of Ross County in 1808, in Jefferson township-Ross County in 1809, Peepee township-Ross County in 1810, and Jefferson township-Ross County in 1816, 1817 and 1818. He is shown as living in Jefferson Township-Ross County in the 1820 U.S. census. He died in 1821 in Ross County.

6. Solomon Harness, son of John Harness and Eunice Pettice was born in 1772 in Hampshire, Virginia. He died in 1850 in Wood, Virginia. He married Catherine Stump. She was born on 16 Jun 1776 in Hardy, Bedford, Virginia. She died in Wood, Virginia.

Notes for Solomon Harness: He was not listed in John or Eunice's wills. First cousins once removed. Catherine is a great grandchild of Michael Harness (1701-1785) and Solomon is a grandchild. Solomon Harness, a son of John Harness owned a fairly extensive plantation in Wood County, Virginia in the 1840's, and some of his slaves escaped. Solomon Harness purchased 1800 acres of land on Bull Creek in Virginia (located near present day Waverly in Wood County, West Virginia) in 1810. The land had once belonged to George Washington, first president of the United States. Solomon owned from 30 to 40 adult slaves and he kept them busy year around on his plantation, raising tobacco, corn, flax and wheat. About the time Solomon purchased the land that became known as the Solomon Harness Plantation, a man named Ephrian Cutler of Constitution, Colonel John Stone of Belpre and some other Washington County residents began to encourage slaves on various Virginia plantations to escape by helping them move north where they would eventually cross Lake Erie and find freedom in Canada. This practice of helping runaway slaves became known in U.S. history as the Underground Railroad. No one is quite sure exactly how many runaway slaves crossed the Ohio river from Virginia and Kentucky over a period of about 60 years, but estimates range from 25,000 to 50,000. The Ohio River was much different then than it is now. It was not nearly as wide and during the dry season the river level in places often dropped to a depth that allowed runaway slaves to actually wade across it. The Underground Railroad era in Ohio lasted from about 1800 to 1863. During that time Washington County, Ohio bordered Wood County "western "Virginia, along the Ohio river boundary between the North and the South. The Ohio River was the Mason-Dixon line. On or about August 23, 1843, eleven slaves escaped from the Solomon Harness Plantation, crossing the Ohio River. Among the escapees was a 50-year-old slave woman named Jane and her seven children, ranging in age from 25 down to 16. Two of the men were caught the day after the escape and it is believed that another slave drowned. However, with the help of Daniel Strawther, a slave from down river in Williamstown, Virginia named Josephus, and a white abolitionist from Marietta, Ohio named David Putnam, Jr.,

Jane and her children all made good their escape. Jane's story has been made into a book entitled "*The Escape of Jane.*"

7. Elizabeth Harness, daughter of John Harness and Eunice Pettice was born on 02 Jul 1774 in Hampshire, Virginia. She died on 06 Dec 1846 in Excelsior Springs, Clay, Missouri. She married Michael Stump Welton. He was born on 19 Mar 1775 in Hampshire, Virginia. He died on 26 Jun 1855 in Excelsior Springs, Clay, Missouri.

Notes for Michael Stump Welton: Michael Welton and Elizabeth Harness who removed from what is now Harding County, West Virginia with five sons, some daughters, and slaves to Clay County, Missouri with their family and are buried in a simple grave in Excelsior Springs.

8. Hannah Harness, daughter of John Harness and Eunice Pettice was born on 02 Dec 1783 in Crabbottom, Pendleton County, Virginia. She died on 09 Feb 1827 in Virginia. She married Henry Hull, son of Peter Hull and Barbara Ann Penninger in 1801. He was born on 06 Feb 1780 in Crabbottom, Pendleton County, West Virginia. He died between 26 Mar-03 Jul 1851 in Bull Pastures Farm, Pendleton County, Virginia.
9. Sarah Harness, daughter of John Harness and Eunice Pettice was born on 02 Dec 1783 in Crabbottom, Pendleton County, Virginia. She died on 12 Apr 1845 in Clark, Kentucky. She married Captain Isaac Cunningham. He was born on 07 Dec 1778 in Hardy, Bedford, Virginia. He died on 07 Nov 1842 in Clark, Kentucky.

Notes for Sarah Harness: Sarah Catherine Harness was a twin of Hannah. Sarah exerted a great deal of influence on her husband and he is said to have rarely made a business decision without her input. She was very active and an influential member of the Presbyterian Church. Although Rebecca was Sarah and Captain Isaacs's only child, they raised several other people's children. When Sarah's twin sister, Hannah, died quite young, Captain Isaac and Sarah raised her three daughters. They raised and educated nearly all the children of Captain Isaacs's sister, Elizabeth Scott. They raised and educated George Grimes, a sister's son and orphan. The couple also adopted and raised a child by the name of Thomas Landrum. In fact Capt. Isaac had the child's name formally changed to Thomas L. Cunningham.

John Harness

frontier militia rifleman

Prior to and during the Revolutionary War most of the defense of the South Branch was not carried out by the regular Colonial Army, but rather by local Militias, groups of armed settlers who were put together and called up for several days or weeks of service, and then were disbanded. It is believed that one of Michael Ernst Harness, Sr.'s sons, John Harness, put together Militia companies for such small durations on several occasions prior to and during the Revolution.

Reports in several historical journals indicate that John Harness was involved as a frontier rifleman in some of the early skirmishes with Indians in the Ohio River Valley on through

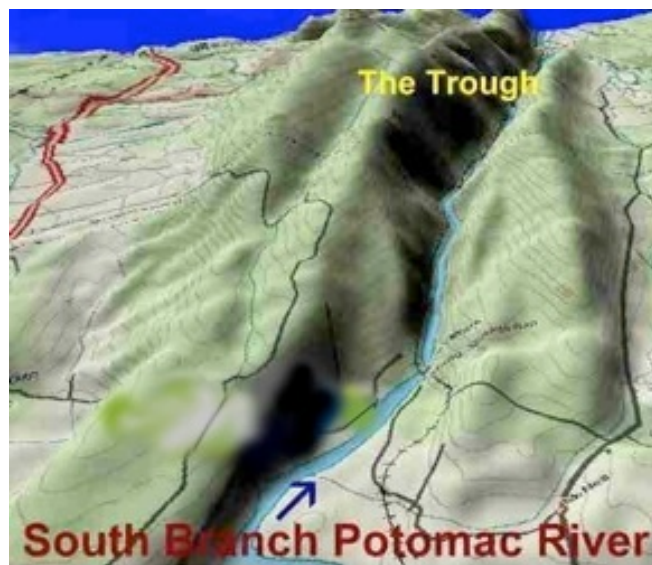
Dunmore's War and perhaps in the Revolutionary War itself. In all cases he was apparently a member of or leader of these Militia companies, rather than a member of the regular army.

The earliest reported involvement of John Harness can be found in an account attributed to Dr. Charles A. Turley in "*A History of the Valley of Virginia*" by Sam Kercheval, originally published in 1909. Turley describes what has become known as "The Battle of the Trough" which occurred in the Spring of 1756 on the South Branch.

Near chaos reportedly prevailed on the South Branch during this period. Many if not most of the settlers had fled the area in fear of more Indian attacks. Those families that remained often sought refuge in makeshift forts which George Washington (then 23 years of age and commander of the Virginia Militia) had been ordered to put up by Virginia's Royal Governor Dinwiddie in order to offer some minimum degree of safety for the embattled frontier settlers who remained on the South Branch.

According to Dr. Turley eighteen frontiersmen, most of them from Town Fort and a few from Fort Buttermilk, pursued some Indians who had kidnapped two women from the home of one of the women (a Mrs. John Brake) on the South fork of the South Branch of the Potomac, not far from Moorefield. The Indians killed one of the women (a Mrs. Neff) when she could not keep up with them as they fled the scene. The attack on the women was led by Shawnee Chief Killbuck, described in various historical accounts as particularly ferocious, cunning and vengeful. Chief Killbuck led many of the raids on settlers along the South Branch during the years 1753 to 1761. He could understand and speak English and was well acquainted with many of the frontiersmen and their families as he had lived among them before the Indian wars broke out.

Dr. Turley said that the eighteen frontiersmen (John Harness among them), who left the forts in pursuit of the Indians "*were men notorious for their valor and had been well tried on many such occasions.*" The men and their families who had sought refuge in the forts from the ongoing Indian raids in the area, found a "plain trace" left by the Indians, apparently a little too obvious a trace for John Harness.



Turley said "*Mr. John Harness, who was well acquainted with the manners and modes of warfare of the Indians*" warned of a possible Indian ambush.

When the frontiersmen arrived at "the trough" they found the Indians encamped and started to quietly sneak up on them. Unfortunately, a stray dog that had followed the frontiersmen, spotted a rabbit about that time and went yelping after it, thus alerting the Indians to the presence of the frontiersmen. The men were trapped in the trough between the mountain and the rain-swollen river. More than half of the frontiersmen were killed in the ensuing battle. The others, including Harness, swam across the swollen river to safety.

George Yokum, in an interview in the Draper papers (circa 1843) said that John Harness was wounded in the battle. He also said that even though the battle scene was only a mile from Van Meter's fort, and some of the men in the fort wanted to go to the aid of the eighteen frontiersmen during the battle, British Captain Thomas Waggener who was in command of the garrison at the fort at the time, not only refused to let them go, but ordered the fort gates closed and locked. As a result, the frontiersmen fleeing for their lives from the Indians had to run two miles or so to two other nearby forts to get to safety. Sometime later, according to Yokum's account, Captain Waggener ordered some of the men involved in "The Battle of the Trough" whipped for having called Waggener a coward for not opening the gates of the fort and letting the men in to safety on the day of the battle.

From 1766 until the start of Dunmore's war in 1774, relative peace apparently prevailed on the frontier as far as Indian skirmishes were concerned. Professor Jacobs described it this way in the Kercheval book: "At the start of the year 1774, there existed between the settlers and the Indians a kind of doubtful, precarious and suspicious peace."

By 1774 John Harness appears to have become a member of Captain Michael Cresap's informal company of frontiersmen who engaged in a number of battles against Indians who, encouraged by the French, were hostile to the British settlement of the Ohio River Valley. Captain Cresap at the time had retired with his family to Maryland. But he became distressed about the inhabitants on the western frontier and their perilous situation. So he left his home and family, raised a company of volunteers, including John Harness, and marched to their assistance. Cresap's company was made up informally of backwoods Virginia frontiersmen, primarily from the South Branch area who, increasingly alarmed at the increasing number of Indian raids against frontier settlers in the Valley, and the safety of their families, armed themselves in self-defense and went looking for hostile Indians and engaged them in sometimes very bloody battle.

In one anecdote found in "*A History of the Valley of Virginia*" by Samuel Kercheval, a Reverend Mr. Jacobs tells about John Harness' reported involvement in one of those skirmishes with a party of Indians and his apparent ability as a musket rifle sharpshooter.

According to the story, when Captain Cresap's company of frontiersmen arrived on the near bank of the Muskingum river (in Ohio country) and lay in wait... "*an Indian on the opposite shore got behind a log or old tree, and lifted up his head occasionally to look at the white man's encampment on the other side. One of Captain Cresap's men, of the name of John Harness,*

seeing this, loaded his rifle with two balls and placing himself on the bank of the river, watched the opportunity when the Indian raised his head and, firing at the same instant, put both balls through the Indian's neck, and laid him dead."

The Reverend Dr. Joseph Doddridge in the Kercheval history, recounts the same event, and notes that the Indians dragged off the body of the dead Indian *"and buried it with the honors of war. It was found the next morning and scalped by Harness."*

John Harness remained an active frontier rifleman in Captain Michael Cresap's company when the aggressive Royal Governor of Virginia, Lord Dunmore, called out the colony's militia to crush the Ohio Indian tribes once and for all in 1774. Family legend has it that John Harness was among those present at the peace ceremony with Shawnee Chief Cornstalk near Chillicothe, Ohio on October 26, 1774 that brought an end to Dunmore's War.

There are numerous modern day descendants who, in listing their ancestors on the internet who served in Dunmore's war, specifically mention that that ancestor served under Captain John Harness' company, (or in some cases, they call it Captain Harness' Rangers). There are also numerous historical references by various sources to the Romney Pay Roll which lists a group of militia companies whose members were paid at Romney, West Virginia "for services performed in the 1774 excursion against the Indians," (Dunmore's War.) One, dated October 17, 1775, is said to be the list from Captain John Harness.

The American Revolution started shortly after the end of Dunmore's War but there is no verified evidence that John Harness ever actively served in the Continental Army itself. He would probably have been about 40 years of age at that time. There are several reports that indicate Harness, with a rank of Captain, led a Militia company on more than one occasion during the Revolutionary War period, in defense of the settlers on the western frontier.

All available information indicates that he returned to his home on the South Branch after the conclusion of Dunmore's War. He is listed as a Revolutionary War non-military patriot, providing beef from his farm for the Continental Army. His brother's George and Jacob are also on that list as is slain brother Michael Harness, Jr.'s son, Adam.

The Story of Fort Harness

Members of the Harness family built a small fort, sometime between 1740 and 1750, just southwest of Moorefield, Virginia, as a family fortification against Indian raids. The fort was actually nothing more than a log house with palisades and was located about a mile or so from Michael Harness, Sr's home which he called Hawthorne. In 1756, the fort, identified several times in *The Papers of George Washington* as Harness' Fort, was called on to serve a historic purpose. By 1753, the growing rivalry between the British and the French for control of the western frontier was about to erupt into the French and Indian War (1754-63).

In 1755, at the age of 23, George Washington was promoted by the governor of the Virginia colony, Robert Dinwiddie, to Colonel and was appointed commander-in-chief of the Virginia

militia. He was given the specific responsibility of defending the frontier from the French. Washington's assignment was due, at least in part, to his back-country knowledge and the map-making skills he had gained earlier from surveying in the frontier area.

In May, 1756 Colonel Washington ordered elements of the Virginia militia to Harness' Fort to protect South Branch settlers in that area. The fort was ordered garrisoned by Colonel Washington in the summers of 1756 and 1757 and 50 men were garrisoned there at one point.

In a long letter addressed to Governor Dinwiddie and dated April 29, 1757 from Williamsburg, Col. Washington made several recommendations including the following:

“I also beg to observe here that the fort at the upper tract notwithstanding, it is more in the Indian parts of the mountains, is too high up, since numbers of the inhabitants of those parts, if I am rightly informed, are lately moving down about Harness’, at a place called Buttermilk Fort, which renders it necessary to place the troops, or at least a principal part of them, there also to protect the inhabitants in saving and gathering their crops, etc.”

On August 10, 1756, as South Branch settlers were in near panic, Captain Thomas Waggener held a Council of War at Fort Harness. The Council discussed orders from Colonel Washington to draw up plans to protect the inhabitants of the South Branch. Clearly, the Virginia frontier was considered by Governor Dinwiddie and the Virginia Assembly at Romney as the key to who would control the continent.

The South Branch was a part of Hampshire County which during this period of history covered over 2,600 square miles. It was the western frontier of the Virginia Colony. Because Virginia's route to the upper Ohio River Valley came through Hampshire County, the area became an important gateway to the developing west.

Here is a partial transcription of that 1756 Council of War at Harness' Fort:

from Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers - published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

A Council of War held at Fort Harness, August 10, 1756

The President produced to the Council Orders from Colo. Washington of the 5 & 7 of August that the President & the two remaining Companys are to be disposed of in the most eligible manner for the protection of the Inhabitants above ye Trough, & as the Militia Stationed upon the Branch are determined to leave their Stations directly, We judging the Welfare of our Country requires that as many of the Inhabitants as possible remain on the Branch, which without protection it will be impossible to Detain,

It is therefore the opinion of the Council that the Forces Detached from the Regiment and now upon the Branch without a further Supply of Men it will be impracticable to proceed in building the Chain of Forts Ordered.

We are likewise Informed that the upper Inhabitants that is those twenty miles above Capt. Waggener's upper Fort is without a Mill, & that neither meal or flour can be had without sending a Detachment at least twenty Miles for it, so that the whole except Capt. Bells Company remains here 'till further Orders

Captain Waggener enclosed with the Council of War document, the following personal message to Colonel Washington:

***HARNESS FORT Augt. 10th. 1756
SIR***

I had got as far as this Place in my way to the Upper Track; and Imediatly upon Rect of your Letters, I held a Council of War, The Resolve of which you have Inclosed, together with a Return of each Compy on the Branch, Capt. Field with 30 of his Men are willing, to Remain at the Upper Fort till decr. so I Cant Station the Men at the Diff Forts, untill I know, whether his Staying will be agreeable to you or not--Since I wrote you last their has been a Man killd and Scalpd within half a Mile of the Town Fort, And Two of his Sons taken Prisoners--the Men belonging to Fort Cumberland went off Sunday last, And Capt. Bell Marches Imediatly to his Station--I am

***... Sr. yr. most Obedt. hue. Servt.
... THOS. WAGGENER***

Fort Harness was used primarily for the protection of the Harness family and nearby neighbors who were unable to reach the lower stockaded fort, Fort Buttermilk, about 3 miles north of Harness' Fort, or Fort Pleasant on Henry van Meter's grant at Old Fields in present day Hardy County, West Virginia during Indian raids.

It is likely that Fort Harness was used as a private year-around residence by one of the Harness families, probably Michael Ernst Harness Sr.'s son, John Harness, who later leased and eventually purchased it. Of course, the population of the small fort swelled with other nearby family members and neighbors in times of danger of Indian attack.

The fort was located on the portion of Lord Fairfax's vast estate known as the South Branch Manor. In the late 1980's, Andy Wilkins, a surveyor and grandson of a member of the Fisher family who inherited the property, surveyed his family's farm. He discovered Lot # 48 of the Fairfax South Branch Manor Grant was within the current boundaries of the present day Water Edge Farm.

Deeds found in the Hardy County, West Virginia Courthouse in 2005 by Mike Crites, indicate that on August 3, 1773 John Harness was granted a lease by Lord Fairfax on Lot # 48 (260 acres) and Lot # 50 (11 acres). It is unclear if John Harness and his family or other members of the Harness family made their residence there prior to 1773, but it would not be surprising in that most of the South Branch settlers resided in those early years without any official ownership title on land claimed by Lord Fairfax.

According to Crites research, several of John Harness' brothers and their families lived nearby and were also granted leases by Lord Fairfax on the same date in 1773. They are:

- *Adam Harness- Lot # 39 (350 acres)
- *Jacob Harness- Lot # 49E (247 acres)
- *George Harness-Lot # 51 (300 acres)

On September 10, 1799, Lot # 48 was sold outright to John Harness by John Marshall, who had been an attorney for the Fairfax family and had purchased the South Branch Manor properties from the estate of the late Lord Fairfax in 1794. According to the deeds, John Harness paid 70 pounds and 12 shillings for Lot # 48. NOTE: *Attorney John Marshall later became Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.*

Upon the death of John Harness (about 1806), he willed his home to his second son, Adam. When Adam died in 1829 he left no will and his estate, including Lot #48, the site of Fort Harness, was divided equally among his children.

In 1830, George Morgan Fisher, who had married Mary Ann Harness, a daughter of Michael Ernst Harness, Sr.'s son Jacob (and his wife Eunice Petty) started purchasing Adam Harness's estate from Adam's children. By 1833 the Fisher's owned all of the property that had originally been the site of Fort Harness.

In 1834 George and Mary Ann Fisher moved onto the property. The rear section of the structure and the outbuildings on the property were added by the Fishers.

Hawthorne

Michael Harness, Sr.'s Home



The two-story log home of Michael Ernst Harness, Sr., which he built sometime after 1740 and named Hawthorne, was located on the west side of the South Branch of the Potomac river on what is known today as River Road in the community of Fisher, West Virginia.

According to Mike Crites of Moorefield, West Virginia, who was raised in the Fisher area and has conducted research on the original owners of a number of properties in the Fisher community, Hawthorne was torn down in the 1970's due to severe termite damage. A white block house stands today (2006) at the former location of Michael Harness, Sr.'s home.

Some years after Michael built Hawthorne, the property on which it was located became known as a part of Lord Fairfax's South Branch Manor. Michael and his family are believed to have lived there for many years without benefit of any form of ownership, not unlike most of the early settlers on the South Branch.

In 1802 and 1877 Hardy County deed books indicate that the 154 acre lot (or "farmlet" as Lord Fairfax called it) on which Hawthorne was located, known as Lot # 54 in Fairfax's South Branch Manor, was conveyed by lease deed on August 3, 1773 ... "to Michael Harness and Catherine his wife and Elizabeth his sister, and the longest liver of them renewable... forever." Michael was the son of Adam Harness and a grandson of Michael Harness. The original 1773 deed is among many missing Hampshire County deeds from that period, but it is clearly referenced and summarized in the two later Hardy County deed books. (*The 1802 deed can be found in Hardy County, Deeds, Book # 5, pp. 474-7 while the 1877 deed can be found in Hardy County, Deeds, Book #32, p. 44*), Lot # 54 changed hands many times over ensuing years. The 1802 document indicates that Michael Harness and his wife sold it to William Cunningham, Sr. shortly before they moved to Ohio sometime after 1792. Cunningham's wife was Jemima Harness, a daughter of Michael Harness, Sr.'s son, John Harness.

The Harness family and...

The practice of slavery in colonial Virginia

The practice of owning African slaves was widely accepted in all of the original colonies. The economic realities of the southern colonies perpetuated the practice. Colonists in Virginia owned the most slaves. Some 316 slaves lived and worked for George Washington at his Mount Vernon home, which actually was a classic southern plantation.

Michael Ernst Harness, Sr., the patriarch of the Harness, was taxed in Hampshire County, Virginia in 1782 as owning 14 slaves. In his will, dated 1783, he willed his wife, Elizabeth, two slaves, one male named Manuel and one female named Rachel. He willed his youngest son, Jacob, the remainder of his slaves except one named Will which he gave to his son, Peter.

It is likely that all of Michael Ernst Harness' sons had slaves of their own, although the only documentation of that is found in the 1763 will of Michael Harness, Jr., who is listed as having two slaves which he willed to his widow, Catherine.

Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, where most of Michael, Sr.'s sons and their families emigrated to from Virginia, were by the time of their arrival there so-called free-states, that is, slave holding was not permitted.

It is likely that the descendants of Michael, Sr. who remained in Virginia owned slaves until the conclusion of the Civil War. Most of the Harness family members who remained in Virginia and West Virginia during the period prior to and during the Civil War were active supporters of the Confederate cause, which among other things, advocated the retention of slavery. The outcome of the Civil War, of course, brought an end to the practice of slavery in all states.

Solomon Harness, a son of Captain John Harness, the frontier fighter son of the family's patriarch, Michael Ernst Harness, Sr., appears to have been the member of the family with the most slaves.



On about 1800 acres of land on Bull Creek in Wood County, Virginia, near present day Waverly, West Virginia, Solomon established a plantation about 1840 acres on land once owned by George Washington. Solomon had 30-40 slaves who he kept busy year around raising tobacco, corn, flax and wheat. Solomon's plantation bordered the state of Ohio and the Ohio River. That river formed the boundary between the North and the South, the historic Mason-Dixon Line.

Over the Alleghenies ...to Ohio Country

It would not be until nearly 1800 that the first members of the Harness family would make it across the Alleghenies to Ohio country in the Northwest Territory.



The Ohio Country was the name given to the territory roughly west of the Appalachians and north of the Ohio river. Its boundaries were not clearly defined. It consisted of what is pretty much modern-day Ohio, eastern Indiana, western Pennsylvania and northwestern West Virginia.

Joseph Harness, (1770-1821) a son of John Harness and Eunice Petty, made the long and difficult trek to Ohio Country in 1798. The trip was well documented by Joseph's friend, Felix Renick, who made the journey with him. Renick made a diary of the entire trip and it was later published as part of a book entitled "*Felix Renick, Pioneer*" by Charles Summer Plumb, a professor of Animal Husbandry at Ohio State University.

According to Renick's diary, Joseph Harness, with his South Branch friends Renick and Leonard Stump (a son of Michael Stump) set out on their journey westward on October 1, 1798. Renick kept extensive notes, and in them he gave the following reason for the trek westward: ***"Some of our neighbors who had served in Dunmore's campaign in 1774 gave accounts of the great beauty and fertility of the western country, and particularly the Scioto river valley, which inspired me with a desire to explore it as early as I could make it convenient."*** One of those neighbors, of course, was Joseph Harness' father John, the frontier fighter, who had been involved in Dunmore's campaign in the Ohio country.

Taking with them what provisions they could conveniently carry and good rifles to procure more if and when necessary the three men set out prepared to camp whenever night overtook them.

On the second morning of their journey, Renick wrote about ***"coming upon a settler in the woods who had built a log cabin."*** On his invitation, the three men stopped for breakfast, ***"a very dirty service of corndodgers and fried bear meat."*** Several days later they ran into a hunter and had breakfast with him in his cabin. Renick said he fed them meat ***"not exactly like any flesh we had ever tasted before."*** It turned out to be panther meat and Renick said ***"when we learned that, our meal was ended in pretty short order."***

The three men encountered friendly Indians and occasional settlers at various times along their way westward.

They came as far west as Chillicothe, a village that had just been laid out and surveyed two years earlier. Felix Renick, in his notes, described the town of Chillicothe he saw in 1798 this way: ***"...no town, no commerce, no steamboats."***

The three men returned home to Virginia, enthused about the future possibilities of the Scioto river valley at Chillicothe, especially for raising and feeding cattle.

Before Joseph Harness and Felix Renick left Ohio Country to return home to the South Branch in 1798, they picked out some very desirable rich and fertile prairie land on the High Bank Prairie in the vicinity of Chillicothe and planted a crop of corn on it before it was opened to land sales by the government. On the day the land was formally offered for sale, Harness and Renick, already occupying it, claimed so-called "squatter's rights" to purchase the most favorable land, and they proceeded to do so. Harness bought approximately 1,200 acres. Some of the other bidders suggested that bribery might have been involved, but that charge fell by the wayside. Harness and Renick returned home to Virginia, but within a year brought their families and some of their friends back to the new far western frontier, Ohio Country in the Northwest Territory.

Peter Hull II

Peter Hull II was born about 1752 in Cub Run, Rockingham, Virginia to Peter Thomas Hull I and Susanna Margaretha Dieffenbach. He married Barbara Ann Peninger. The original spelling for Hull was Hohl. Peter held the title of colonel and was, along with his father, a Revolutionary War and War of 1812 veteran. He fought in the 2nd Battalion of the Augusta County Militia, Colonel John McCreery's Regiment. He substituted for James Carlile. DAR #: A059545. (A History of Highland County, Oren F. Morton, page 194; Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War, J. T. McAllister, Section 72, 180, 253, and 256; and Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolution, John H. Gwathmey, page 402.) He was a farmer, business man, and Virginia legislator. Captain Peter Hull was sheriff of Pendleton County with deputies David G McClung and Peter H. Kinkead. He was one of Pendleton County's first Justices. Peter had claims on nine parcels of land in Crabbottom Valley. On July 19, 1787 Peter Hull entered into three separate indentures with his brothers Jacob, George, and Adam Hull for partials of land originally conveyed to Peter Thomas Hull I by James Trimble in October 1765.

Acres	Year	Description
97	1772	Headwaters of Jackson's River at Osten's Camp
160	1781	Crabbottom
341	1782	Crabbottom
198	1783	Crabbottom
198	1783	Crabbottom
157	1785	Straight Fork
115	1785	Crabbottom
32	1787	Headwaters of North Fork on Old Path
270	1781	George Hull and Isaac Gum

Hull Properties

His will is dated April 16, 1817 and was recorded for probate in January 1818 in Pendleton County, Virginia. He named his wife Barbara, sons Henry, Peter, Adam, William, daughters Susannah Kinkead, Barbara Sitlington, William Harvey (husband of the deceased Elizabeth), and

his grandson Matthew Harvey. Peter died in January 1818 in Crabapple Bottom, Pendleton County, Virginia. In addition to many land holdings he owned 16 slaves, 19 horses, 43 cows, and 60 sheep. He and Barbara were buried in the Original Hull estates Kinkead Cemetery, Hightown, Virginia. In February 1828 Barbara wrote her own will naming her daughter Barbara Sitlington, grandson William P H Kinkead, grandson William Hull, and slave Stephen. Her will was proved in August 1828. Peter and Barbara had eight children:

1. Peter Hull III born 1756 in Cub Run, Rockingham County, Virginia – died 1818 Virginia.
2. Adam Hull born October 10, 1786 in Crabbottom, Highland County, Virginia and died September 1, 1837 in Eel River, Allen, Indiana. He married Elizabeth Hevener October 19, 1812. She was born October 29, 1886 in Crabbottom, Highland County, Virginia and died September 4, 1838 in Eel River, Allen, Indiana.
3. Jacob Hull born 1762 in Pendleton, Virginia – died March 11, 1815 in Crabapple Bottom, Pendleton, Virginia – married Jane Welton daughter of Moses Welton. He also married Jane Arbogast.
4. William Hull born 1764 in Augusta, Virginia – married Rachel Renick and Rebecca Bradford.
5. Susanna Hull born 1778 in Virginia – died October 3, 1816 in Highland, Virginia – married Sheriff Thomas Kinkead. In 1795 Thomas operated a business in Bath County, Virginia with brother Joseph.
6. **Henry Hull** born February 6, 1780 in Crabbottom, Pendleton Co, Virginia – died 1850 in Highland, Virginia – married **Hannah Harness**
7. Barbara Hull born 1784 in Botetourt, Virginia – died January 1, 1838 in Highland, Virginia – married John Sitlington – a Highland County, Virginia justice.
8. Elizabeth Hull born 1788 in Virginia – died 1817 – married William Harvey.

Hull Family Notes

The structure that houses the Highland Museum and Heritage Center has been a central part of Highland County history, long before it ever became a museum. Long known as “The Mansion House,” the museum building story begins with an old Highland County family.

Peter Hull II, a pioneer German settler in Highland County in the 1700's, owned the major part of Crabbottom Valley in what is now Highland County. In the early 1800's, his son, Peter Hull III., moved to McDowell and became the owner of vast acreage in the area, with large herds of livestock and many slaves. In 1851, just four years after Highland became a county, George Washington Hull (right), his son, built the "Mansion House."

Local lore reports that when Hull built his home facing the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike, it was called "The Mansion" because it was the first large brick house in McDowell. The house was constructed by slave laborers using bricks fashioned on the Hull plantation.

G.W. Hull represented Highland County at the Virginia Convention called to debate secession from the Union in 1861. According to the 1911 Morton's History of Highland County, Hull was initially an opponent of secession until President Abraham Lincoln made a call for volunteers to

put down the southern rebellion. After that, Hull reluctantly supported Virginia's secession from the Union.

In 1862, the Civil War raged through the area, and the Mansion House served first as host to officers and then as a hospital for the wounded during and after the Battle of McDowell, the opening salvo and crucial first Confederate victory in Stonewall Jackson's brilliant Shenandoah Valley Campaign.

When cadets from VMI finally reached McDowell on May 9, 1862, the day after the battle, they were given the gruesome chore of burying the dead from both armies. One cadet later recalled, "On going to the brick house [the Hull 'Mansion' house] we found that the parlor had been used as a hospital.

Union General George McClellan credited the Battle of McDowell with disabling his campaign to take Richmond. It gave new heart to the Confederate cause and also served to help protect the Shenandoah Valley as the "breadbasket of the Confederacy."

Hull died of cholera early in 1862, before the Battle of McDowell. After the war, in 1886, the Mansion House property was conveyed by deed from Hull's widow to Mrs. Mary Bradshaw, wife of James B. Bradshaw. The house became a major stagecoach stop and hotel on the historic Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike and was named "The Mansion House." The Bradshaw family operated a first class hotel here until about 1930.

In 1930, the house was purchased by the Ralston family and became a family home. Today it is currently being restored to its Civil War era appearance by its new owners, the Highland County Historical Society.

George Hull was somewhat of a banker. He issued his own currency in January 1862.



George's brother Felix Hull raised a militia in 1861 by issuing bonds for \$6,500 to buy 12 tents and about 250 uniforms. He was named "Captain of Volunteers in the service of Virginia".

From Staunton Spectator November 12, 1861

Died Of Camp Fever, October 31st, 1861, at his residence at McDowell, Highland county, Va., Capt. Felix H. Hull, in the 39th year of his age. In the death of this estimable man, the community in which he lived sustains a loss well nigh irreparable. For several years he served his county as a prompt and efficient member of the court. He was a zealous advocate of the Temperance cause, a faithful and competent Sabbath School Superintendent: an industrious and energetic Ruling Elder in the Central Union Presbyterian Church. As Captain of Volunteers in the service of Virginia, he was among the first who marched to the defense of the Northwest, and participated in all that was endured by our volunteers in their retreat from Grafton, Phillippi, and Laurel Hill. At Camp Bartow, in the county of Pocahontas, he contracted the fever...

Notes: Jacob served as ensign in the 1st Battalion, 46 Regiment of the Virginia Militia. From 1798 to 1803 served as the Pendleton Legislator in the Virginia Assembly. On May 28, 1799 he was commissioned a Captain to raise a company of Cavalry in the 46 Regiment in Pendleton...

By 1800 Peter and Jacob Hull operated two stores in Crabbottom.

In February 1801 he served as Justice of Peace.

In 1806 Jacob Hull purchases land from Abraham and Elizabeth Evans. The Evans family was involved in many and lengthy disputes with the Hull family.

On March 11, 1815 Jacob Hull wrote his will. The will was proved on March 3, 1818. The will mentions his wife Jane, children Henry, Jacob, Mary Jane, and Welton. He mentions friends Captain Thomas Kinkead, Moses Welton, and wife Jane as executors. Kinkead is a brother-in-law. Moses Welton is probably his father in law.

It appears that Jacob Hull never joined his brothers John and Laban in Chamois, Missouri because he died in 1818 and was buried in Crabbottom, West Virginia. His wife Jane and her father Moses died and were later buried in the Hull Cemetery near Chamois, Missouri. Jacob's son Henry Jacob Hull also married (a second time) the widowed sister of the wives of John and Laban.

The Kinkeads are an interesting family. Thomas Kinkead was married to Susanna Hull (the daughter of Peter Hull II and the granddaughter of Peter Thomas Hull I). Thomas and Susanna's son Peter Hull Kinkead married two of his second cousins Sarah Ann Hull and Nancy Jane Hull the daughters of John Hull, granddaughters of Adam Hull, and the great granddaughters of Peter Thomas Hull I.

In January 1804 an act was passed authorizing Peter Hull II, Henry Hull and others to raise money by way of a lottery to improve the road leading across the Shenandoah Mountains to Brock's Gap in the county of Rockingham.

In December 1804 an act was passed authorizing Peter Hull II and others to raise money by way of a lottery to erect a seminary of learning at the Hot Springs in Bath County.

Burial:

Shinaberry Cemetery btwn Hightown and Bluegrass

Highland County

Virginia, USA

Inscription:

Virginia - Capt. Co. 2 Augusta ML - Rev War

DAR# A059545

<http://files.usgwarchives.net/va/highland/cemeteries/kinkead01.txt>

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/c/a/m/Olivia-Camp-fernandez/GENE2-0002.html>

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=AHN&db=:1175967&id=I55714690>

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=:2607364&id=I00372>

A few sources list Barbara Anne Keith as the wife of Peter Hull II. There is good evidence that Barbara Ann Peninger is the correct wife. The following are the arguments for Peninger.

No Keith land has been found the Pendleton or Highland County, West Virginia area.

Henry Peninger was Barbara Ann's father. Henry Peninger's land adjoined the land of James Patterson and Elizabeth Ann Hull Patterson. Elizabeth Ann Hull is Peter Hull's sister. James and Elizabeth sold their land to Peter Hull. This would place the land of Peter Hull and Barbara Ann next to her father.

Several deeds were signed by Peter Hull and Peningers in German script. Peter Hull's wife Barbara signed several deeds in German script. Barbara Anne Keith was of Scotch-Irish ancestry.

Peter Hull's uncle George Hull served in the Revolutionary War as an Indian Spy under Captain McCoy. Barbara Peninger's brother Henry Peninger also served as an Indian Spy under Captain McCoy.

The Peningers

There is not as much direct documentation for the Peninger history as there is for the Harnesses or Hulls. Peter and Barbara were married in about 1783 and probably still lived in Crabbottom. Barbara lived about fifteen miles away just south of Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia. The travel distance was much further in 1783. Somehow they got together.

Most of the Peninger family history must be deduced from the birth and death dates and places of the children of her father Henry Peninger.

Henry Peninger Sr. was born in 1732 in Cuxhaven, Cuxhaven, Niedersachsen, Germany. He died on 12 Jun 1820 in Pendleton County, West Virginia. He married Barbara Waggoner, daughter of Ulrich Waggoner and Barbara Sterer in 1758 in Lewis County, Virginia. She was born in 1740 in Highland County, Virginia and died on 08 Apr 1815 in Pendleton County, Virginia. He was buried in Fleischer Cemetery, Blue Grass, Highland, Virginia. In some records Henry had a first wife named Maria Baenninger (born 1740 in Zurich, Switzerland) who was the mother of his first four children.

Naturalization: 1762, Augusta County, Virginia. Arrived before 1762.

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=jtlarkin&id=18940>

Residence: In 1762 living near Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia.

Military service: Private in Pendleton County Militia Revolutionary War. Peter Hull was captain.

Occupation: 16 Nov 1773 farmer and Constable on the South Branch of the Potomac.

In 1779 Henry Peninger was indicted by the Rockingham court for "speaking disrespectful and disgraceful words of the congress and words leading to the depreciation of the continental currency".

Henry Peninger had the following children:

1. Elizabeth Peninger was born in 1753 in Rhineland Pfalz, Germany. She died in 1818 in Pendleton County, West Virginia. She married Nicholas Harper. He was born on 26 Mar 1738 in Rhine Pfalz, Germany. He died on 07 Apr 1818 in Pendleton County, West Virginia. Nicholas served under Captain Peter Hull in Augusta County Militia.
2. William Peninger was born in 1755 in Germany in 1816.
3. Barbara Ann Peninger was born in 1756 in Below Mouth Thorn, Pendleton, Virginia. She died on 18 Aug 1828 in Highland, Virginia. She married Peter Hull II, son of Peter Thomas Hull I and Susannah Margaretha Dieffenbach in 1750 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He was born in 1752 in Cub Run, Rockingham, Virginia. He died in Jan 1818 in Crabbottom, Pendleton County, West Virginia (Buried Shinaberry Cemetery, Blue Grass, Highland Co.). She later married George Swadley in 1799. He was born on 07 Aug 1776 in Brandywine, Pendleton, Virginia. He died on 08 Mar 1845 in

Brandywine, Pendleton, Virginia.

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/24722370/person/1796067116/facts>

4. John Peninger was born in 1757 in Pendleton, West Virginia. He died on 12 Jul 1820. He married Barbara Propst, daughter of Leonard Propst and Mary Catherine Miller in 1787. She was born in 1760 in Pendleton County, West Virginia, USA. She died in 1840 in Brandywine, Pendleton County, West Virginia.
5. Henry Peninger II was born in 1759. He died in 1820 in Franklin, Highland County, VA.. Served in Revolutionary War as Indian Spy under Captain McCoy.
6. Mary Peninger was born in 1760 in Brandywine, Pendleton County, West Virginia. She died on 17 Sep 1826 in Brandywine, Pendleton County, West Virginia. She married George Swadley. She married Peter Hoover. He was born in 1746 in Brandywine, Pendleton County, West Virginia. He died on 07 Sep 1807 in Brandywine, Pendleton County, West Virginia.
7. Susan Catherine Peninger was born in 1762 in Below Mouth of Thorn, Virginia. She died in 1831 in Blue Grass, Highland County, Virginia, USA. She married Henry Fleisher, son of Peter Fleischer and Anna Theil in 1779 in Franklin, Virginia, United States. He was born in 1758 in Pendleton, Virginia, United States. He died in 1822 in Highland County, Virginia.
8. Susannah Peninger was born in 1766 in Pendleton Co, Virginia. She died in 1844 in Pendleton County, Virginia. She married George Washington Vandevender. He was born in 1766 in Cherry Grove, Pendleton, Virginia. He died in 9/30/1830 in Randolph, Charlotte, Virginia. Susannah also married Henry Paulsel (1763-1823). Married 1797 – Divorced 12/27/1811. The other daughters were given 100 pounds in Henry's will, but Susannah was only given one pound because she had already received more than her share.
9. Anna Elizabeth Peninger was born in 1768 in Pendleton Co, Virginia. She died in 1844 in Pendleton, VA. She married George Bible. He was born in 1765 in Pendleton, Virginia. He died on 05 Sep 1839 in Pendleton, Virginia.

Henry and his family lived most of life on a homestead just southwest of Franklin, Highland County, West Virginia. Several of his children are listed as born in Below Mouth Thorn. The Thorn Creek joins the South Branch of the Potomac here.

Henry Hull

Here is where the families come together. **Henry Hull** was born about 1780 in Crabbottom, Pendleton County, Virginia to Peter Thomas Hull II and Barbara Ann Penninger Hull. His wife **Hannah Harness** was born December 2, 1783 in Crabbottom, Pendleton County, Virginia to John Harness and Eunice Pettice. She had a twin sister named Sarah. Hannah died in 1823. Henry Hull and wife Hannah purchased a farm from Matthew Patton known as Bull Pastures on the north fork of the South Branch of the Potomac in Virginia. Their daughters Jemina and Rebecca lived with them and never married. After the death of Henry and Hannah the daughters lived with Hannah's twin sister Sarah, who was married to Captain Isaac Cunningham. After the death of the Cunninghams the daughter lived with their younger sister Frances who was married

to Isaac Cunningham Van Meter. Henry and his wife Hannah Harness "lived at Fort Seybert, Pendleton County, now in West Virginia." Henry and Hannah had twelve children:

1. William Hull born January 4, 1802 in Crabbottom and died 1861 in North Carolina. He married Irene M. Scott. She was born in 1814 in Culpepper County, Virginia.
2. Peter Hull was born April 3, 1803 in Virginia and died in 1839. He married Eliza Long. She was born in 1813 in Woodford County, Kentucky and died May 31, 1839.
3. **John Harness Hull** born September 11, 1804 in Pendleton County, West Virginia and died March 17, 1852 in Chamois, Osage County, Missouri. He married **Sarah Elizabeth Tucker**. She was born December 14, 1814 in Lincoln County, Virginia and died March 29, 1852 in Chamois, Osage County, Missouri.
4. Joseph Hull born August 8, 1806. He married Constancy Alley. She was born in 1810 in Tennessee.
5. Sarah J. Hull born March 31, 1808 in Crabbotton, West Virginia and died October 1832. She married Jacob Palzell. He was born in 1805 in Pendleton, West Virginia and died 1 Jan 1853 in LaGrange, Texas.
6. Laban Hull born February 16, 1810 in Hampshire County, West Virginia and died April 11, 1858 in Chamois, Osage, Missouri, married Martha Tucker. She was born 12 Mar 1822 in Kentucky and died in 1887 in Benton Township, Osage County, Missouri.
7. Eliza H. Hull born October 8, 1811 in Hampshire County, West Virginia and died May 1833.
8. Jemina Hull born March 11, 1813 in Hampshire County, West Virginia and died May 5, 1882.
9. Rebecca Hull born May 5, 1816 in Hampshire County, West Virginia and died August 20, 1892 in Lexington, Kentucky.
10. Edwin H. Hull born November 26, 1817 died about 1848. Married Sarah Ann Shobe.
11. Jesse ClevelandHull born September 16, 1819 in Pendleton County, West Virginia, died March 1, 1894 in Moreau, Morgan, Missouri, married Mahalia Drace.. She was born 8 Feb 1823 in Franklin County, West Virginia and died 15 Sep 1844 in Morgan County, Missouri.
12. Frances Harness. Hull born December 1, 1821 in Crabbottom, died October 1, 1898 in Clark, Kentucky, married Isaac Cunningham Van Meter II. He was born 8 Oct 1820 in Winchester, Clark, Kentucky and died there 14 Apr 1898.

Note that Luban Hull and John Harness Hull married sisters Martha and Sarah Tucker.

See Genealogies and Sketches of Some Old Families who Have Taken Prominent Part in the Development of Virginia and Kentucky by Benjamin Franklin Van Meter or http://books.google.com/books?id=hvMTAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA81&lpg=PA81&dq=%22Henry+Hull%22+1780+Harness&source=bl&ots=su2cADLHQq&sig=A-lgCbII-BK3MmQpzBH-cDXEY&hl=en&ei=VsyZSbCAI4-ctweh78G7Cw&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=1&ct=result#PPR1,M1 for more information.

John Harness Hull and Sarah Tucker

John Harness Hull was born in 1804 in Pendleton County, Virginia to Henry Hull and Hannah Harness Hull. **Sarah Elizabeth Tucker** was born in 1814 in Kentucky to Zachariah Tucker and Mary Craig Tucker. John and Sarah were married November 3, 1836 in Calloway County, Missouri. John died March 17, 1852 in Chamois, Osage County, Missouri. John and Sarah are buried near Chamois, Osage County, Missouri. John and Sarah had children:

1. Jesse Hull – born 1837 in Missouri and died 8 Mar 1894
2. William Hull – born about 1839 – Missouri
3. Sarah Jane Hull – born 1841 – Osage County, Missouri – died August 13, 1888 - Colton, San Bernadino, California – married Robert Mitchell Berry. He was born 24 Mar 1836 in Chamois, Osage, Missouri and died 27 Jan 1902 in Eurika, Humbolt, California.
4. **Frances Ann Hull** – born October 26, 1844 – Osage County, Missouri and died February 4, 1894 on the trail near Hennessey Oklahoma married **Hugh Patrick Jordan**. He was born 26 Oct 1844 in Chamois, Osage, Missouri and died 5 Dec 1930 in Enid, Oklahoma.
5. John Harness Hull II– born 1845 – Missouri died 1 Sep 1887. He married Elizabeth Long born in Woodford County, Kentucky.
6. Martha Pearl Hull – born February 18, 1849 – Chamois, Osage County, Missouri
7. Catherine Hull married Mr. Berry
8. George Hull – born March 2, 1851 – died June 24 1862 – Chamois, Osage, Missouri.

The marriage of Henry Hull and Hannah Harness is only one of at least 30 marriage combinations between South Branch resident couples from the Hull, Harness, Van Meter, Inskeep, Cunningham, Yoakum, and Kuykendall families.

John Harness Hull and his brother Laban Hull headed west to near Chamois, Osage County, Missouri sometime before 1836. John and Sarah were married November 3, 1836 in Calloway County, Missouri. Calloway County is just North of Osage County.

The Hull Cemeteries Hull/Harness/Tucker/Welton Connection

There were lots of marrying between the Hull, Harness, Tucker, and Welton families. None of the Weltons are direct ancestors of the Hutchinsons. The Hull, Harness, and Welton families in this document all come from around what is now Hardy County, West Virginia. They mostly settled around Chamois, Osage County, Missouri and Benton Township, Osage County, Missouri with a few settlings near Excelsior Springs, Clay County, Missouri.

Hull Cemetery East – Near Chamois, Missouri



Row 1-Stone 1: Elizabeth Elliott (1837-1882)
 Row 1-Stone 2: Octavia Elliott (1869-1873)
 Row 1-Stone 3: John S. Elliott (1866-1873)

The situation with the Elliotts and Hustons is not clear. Here is my best guess. There is only one Elliott family listed in the Federal Census for Osage County during this time. In the 1880 Census there is a James Elliott (b. 1854) married to a Bettie Huston (b.1859). They were probably the parents of Octavia and John Elliott. Bettie Huston is the daughter of Joseph Huston. Joseph was married first to Virginia Thompson who gave birth to a daughter Mary Huston. The West Hull Cemetery grave has Mary J. Huston 1855-1855. Virginia also died about this time as well. Joseph secondly married Mary Catherine Smith. Joseph and Mary's granddaughter Emma Saschanzky married Austin Madison Elliott, the grandson Austin Elliott of James Elliott and Bettie Huston. All of this took place in Osage County, Missouri. The only connection to the Hulls is that they were probably neighbors. The Mary Huston (1854) who is the daughter of Richard Huston and Sarah Burchard is not the Mary J. Huston (1855-1855) buried in Hull Cemetery East. This Mary Huston was born in 1854 in Benton City Township, Osage County, Missouri and later married Warren Williams. Elizabeth Elliott is probably an aunt. I cannot find sources for the ancestors of James Elliott. Green Huston (1862-) is listed as Bettie Huston's brother in the 1880 Census.

Row 2- Stone 1: Margaret C. Tucker (1821-1865)
 The daughter of ancestor Zachariah Tucker and Mary Polly Craig. She never married.
 Row 2-Stone 2: John H. Hull (1801-1852) Ancestor
 John Harness Hull is the son of Henry Hull and Hannah Harness and the husband of Sarah Tucker Hull Burnett.
 Row 2-Stone 3: Sarah E. Burnett (1814-1884) Ancestor

Sarah Tucker Hull Burnett is the daughter of Zachariah Tucker and Mary Polly Craig and the wife of John Harness Hull and Creed Burnett. Sarah Tucker Burnett was also the third wife of Creed Burnett (1799-1857). Creed is buried beside Sarah, but no stone is found.

Row 2-Stone 4: Sally Stookey (1782-1845)

The Sally Stookey buried in Hull Cemetery East is not a sister of Elizabeth Betsy Stookey the daughter of Abraham Stookey and second wife of Moses Welton. In most sources the first wife of Moses is listed as Sarah Welton, a first cousin of Moses. In a few cases she is listed as Sarah Stookey. It is possible that Sarah Welton and Sally Stookey are the same person. The listed death years are the same and the birth dates are fairly close. Perhaps she lived her final years in Benton Township, Osage County, Missouri and the relatives were mistaken about her maiden name. More about the Stookey family later in this document.

Row 2-Stone 5: Zachariah Tucker (1775-1844) Ancestor

Zachariah Tucker and Mary Polly Craig Tucker are the parents of Margaret Tucker, Martha Tucker Hull, and Sarah Tucker Hull Burnett.

Row 2-Stone 6: Mary Tucker (1783-1851) Ancestor

Mary Polly Craig Tucker is the wife of Zachariah Tucker.

Row 3-Stone 1: Mat. J. Ramsey (1841-1876)

Martha Jane Hull Ramsey was the daughter of Welton Hull (1810-1843) and Martha G. Tucker (1822-1887). She married Joseph Ramsey (1845-1915). He is buried in Springfield, Missouri.

Row 3-Stone 2: Cannot be read.

Row 3-Stone 3: Francis P. Hull (1818-1841)

Daughter of Jacob Hull and Jane Welton Hull.

Row 3-Stone 4: Laban Hull (1810-1858)

Laban Hull is the brother to John Harness Hull. Laban married Martha Tucker. Martha Tucker first married Welton Hull in 1842 and then married Laban Hull in 1852. Welton Hull is the son of Jacob Hull and Jane Welton. Laban and Martha's daughter Sarah (1855-1930) married John Ramsey (1853-1919) and daughter Angeline (1853) married Silas Gilmore Ramsey.

Row 3-Stone 5: Martha G. Hull (1822-1877)

Martha G. Tucker Hull is the wife of Laban Hull and the daughter of Zachariah Tucker and Mary Polly Craig Tucker.

Row 3-Stone 6: Laban Hull

This is probably Laban Hull Welton, the son of Lewis Welton and Mary Jane Hull Welton.

Hull Cemetery West – Near Chamois, Missouri

Haupt, George 1895-1895

There is a couple Nathaniel Daniel Haupt and Martha Adeline Kerr who lived in the area and had children about this time. Based on the 1880 census Daniel and Martha Haupt, Eduard and Mattie Haupt, and George and Augusta Haupt are also possibilities.

Hull, Henry 1801-1848

Henry Hull is the son of Jacob Hull (1762-1818) and Jane Welton and the husband of Mary Ann Alkire.

Huston, Mary J. 1855-1855

See John S. Elliott above.

Hull, Jane 1777-1837

Jane Welton Hull is the wife of Jacob Hull (1762-1818) buried Crabbottom, West Virginia. She is the daughter of Job Welton (1744-1820) and Mary McGuire (1742-1815).

Pagross, Ella 1867-

Pagross, Elena 1867-1867

There is no information on the Pagross twins.

Hull, Mary Ann 1808-1841

Mary Ann Hull was born Mary Ann Alkire and married Henry Hull.

Hull East Graves

These gravestones were found on a 2001 expedition by Hull ancestors Mary Carol Foreman, Frances Ann Hosier, Martha Garson, Estill Jordan, Leo Jordan, Walter Hull, and Erla Alexander. The graves are on a private farm in the Benton Township, Osage County, Missouri. Most of the stones are down and difficult to find under the vinca ground cover. The inscriptions are enhanced by spreading and wiping shaving lotion.



John Harness Hull



Zachariah Tucker



Mary Polly Craig Tucker



Laban Hull
Brother of John



Martha Tucker Hull
Daughter of Zachariah



Laban Hull

Welton Cemetery - Chamois, Osage County, Missouri



Moses Welton (1775-1847)

Elizabeth Betsy Stookey (1789-1847)

Moses and Elizabeth are probably the key to the identity of Sally Stookey. They were both born near Hardy County, West Virginia and died and were buried in the Welton Family Cemetery near Chamois, Missouri.



Ivy Welton (1815-1845) wife of John Cook

Born in Hardy, West Virginia died in Chamois, Missouri. Daughter of Moses Welton and Elizabeth Betsy Stookey. Died same year as Sally Stookey.

Job Welton (1831-1856) son of Moses Welton

Mary McGuire (1741-1815)

Rachel Welton (1803-1844) daughter of Moses Welton

Solomon Rudy Shobe (1793-1844)

Welton Cemetery - Excelsior Springs, Clay County, Missouri.

This cemetery was in a lot by the Wal-Mart in Excelsior Springs, Clay County, Missouri and has since been moved to Woodland Cemetery also in Clay County.

To get to this old but obviously cared for cemetery, from the Excelsior Springs Wal-Mart, go north on 69 highway, turn left on Tracy, exactly 1/2 mile West on Tracy from the intersection of Tracy and Tiger Drive. Turn left into the field (2009 it was soybeans), down the hill to the creek. The concrete "bridge" is out. One must cross on foot, then up the hill through the first grove of trees, and up to the crest of the hill where the cemetery is located in a 2nd grove of trees. From the cemetery, looking South, the Excelsior Springs High School is visible.

A new stone, with all known interments engraved, with footnote "and others known only to God", has been placed at the entrance to the chained-off graveyard.

Michael Welton (1775-1837) married Elizabeth Harness (1764-1846) daughter of John Harness and Eunice Pettice. Michael and Elizabeth were born near Hardy County, West Virginia and died in Clay County, Missouri.

Sanford Welton (1803-1864) is the son of Michael Welton and Elizabeth Harness and the grandson of John Harness and Eunice Pettice. Sanford was born in Hardy County, West Virginia.

Buried in Hardy County, West Virginia.

Anne Elizabeth Welton (1813-1855) and Joseph Harness (1804-1897). Anne is the granddaughter of Job Welton and Mary McGuire. Joseph is the grandson of John Harness and Eunice Pettice.

Jane Amelia Welton (1834-1898) and John George Harness (1825-1907). Jane is the great granddaughter of Job Welton and Mary McGuire. John is the great grandson of John Harness and Eunice Pettice

Other Hulls and Jordan ancestors are buried in Baileys Creek Cemetery. For GPS the Baileys Creek Cemetery is located at Latitude: 38.549N Longitude: -91.699W.

The Hull family and The Civil War

The Harnesses were divided by the Civil War and the Hulls were united by it. According to Civil War service records 97 men with the surname Harness were soldiers in the conflict, 61 on the Union side and 36 on the Confederate side. A number of them died. It is impossible to attach most of the names to specific Harness families as the records are not very specific and there were a number of families with the Harness surname, not all of them related.

Generally speaking, the descendants of Michael Ernst Harness who remained in West Virginia and those who had moved westward to Ohio were on opposite sides.

John Harness Hull's daughter Frances Ann Hull married Hugh Jordan. Recall that Frances Ann's great great grandfather Peter Thomas Hull I came to America on a ship called the "Frances and Ann."

After Hugh Jordan returned from the Civil War he was very ill from exposure and improper food (only raw corn and raw sweet potatoes). On many occasions Army rations were unable to reach the soldiers. He was confined to his bed for about two years. This delayed his doing a favor for a dying Confederate soldier he found after an engagement. He promised he would write to the soldier's mother and, if he came through the war himself, he would bring her some mementos including a small Bible the soldier carried. The Confederate soldier's family (the Hulls) lived less than 20 miles from Mr. Jordan's home. As soon as he could travel, he tried to keep his promise and rode horseback to the soldier's mother's home. He was exhausted upon arrival and

collapsed in his saddle. He was taken in by the family and required three weeks of good nursing care to regain enough strength to return home. While recuperating he fell in love with his nurse, a sister of the Confederate soldier he had helped on the battlefield. Many times during the rest of his life he was heard to remark “I fought the rebels for four years -- then came home and married one.” Thus begins the story of the Hulls and the Jordans.

Best Sources

<https://archive.org/details/historyofpendlet00mort/page/54/mode/2up/search/Hull>
History of Pendleton County

<https://archive.org/details/historyofhighlan00mort/page/12/mode/2up/search/Peninger>
History of Highland County

<https://www.wvgenweb.org/hardy/index.htm>
History of Hardy County