

PANNEBAKKER FAMILY NEWS



NEWSLETTER OF THE PANNEBAKKER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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Most of the readers of this newsletter will remember the discussion about Conrad Pennybaker, who is listed in our family database as having died during the Revolutionary War.

Laurie Baker, a member of our family association, has been researching a link between Conrad Penny Baker, who was a soldier with the King's Rangers during the Revolutionary War, and our Conrad, a Continental soldier during the Revolution.

Through DNA testing, Laurie and I have established a connection between several members of the Baker family, who are descendants of the Conrad from the British Army and myself, a descendant of the same Pennypacker line as the Continental Army Conrad. This DNA testing, extended to 37 markers, shows that there is a 99.9% probability that the Bakers and I share a common ancestor.

Laurie has found pay records for both Conrads during their time in service. The pay records for Conrad (Continental Army) end before the pay records for Conrad (British Army) begin. There is no overlap in the pay records. The last pay record found is one in St. Augustine in June 1783. This is about the time that the Loyalists were evacuated to the Bahamas.

All of this points to the conclusion that both Conrads were the same person. So far, there has not been a paper trail found to confirm this conclusion.

As Laurie states, "Possibly, Conrad of the 4th Virginia Regiment was captured and changed sides. I'm told that the British Army was much better fed than the Continentals. It would be easy to understand that if he didn't return to his wife and son they would assume he died." How could Conrad return to his former life in the Colonies after switching sides and fighting for the British?

Conrad Penny Baker married and started a family in the Bahamas. "It would also be understandable that if he found himself in the Bahamas that he would only mention his service in the King's Rangers, be likely to remarry and also decide that his children and grandchildren would be better off with a different name if they were to migrate back to the United States."

So, that is where the story of Conrad stands at this time. Research into this situation continues. I decided to see what I could find out about Conrad's family prior to the Revolution.

My search started with the handwritten Pennypacker Genealogy by Samuel Whitaker Pennypacker. I realized that this branch of the family was totally unknown by SWP. Not a word about them appears in any of his writings. Next, I checked with information compiled by Edward Upton. Edward had found them.

The lineage is as follows: Hendrick - Peter - Jacob - Conrad. Ed's information about these Pennybakkers comes mainly from historical documents of Virginia, some of them printed in journals and some on microfilm in the Mormon collection.

Only 4 men with the Pannebecker name are known to have served actively in the Revolution. The two in Pennsylvania were Dirck and William. The two in Virginia were Jacob and his son Conrad. Conrad is

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the only one who died in the call of duty. Conrad was a young man, 18 years old at the most and very likely younger than that, when he joined the 4th Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line. He was not a regular infantryman but rather a Fife Major, a rank that was just above Sergeant in the pay scale.

Conrad's exact dates of service are unknown. The only direct military records found by Ed Upton show him marching home to Virginia in April 1778 as part of a detachment of 58 men returning from service in the north, crossing the Potomac at Lees Ferry, and being paid off 15 Apr 1778 at Yorktown. But Conrad must have quickly reenlisted, for the later sworn testimony of two who served with him declares that he died in the army during the Revolution, and that he had 4 years pay coming to him at that time. If all that is accurate, Conrad must have died in 1782-1783. The same testimony declares that he was a Fife Major of the 4th Virginia Regiment all that time.

That sworn testimony was taken in 1817 and 1823 in Fayette Co. in southwestern Pennsylvania, where Conrad's widow Sarah and her son Jacob were then living. It was part of an effort by Jacob to obtain bounty land that Virginia had promised to Revolutionary War veterans or their heirs, and it included testimony that Jacob was the only child and legitimate heir of Conrad. Jacob and his witnesses were in court several times over this, the last time apparently being 1823. There is nothing to show whether Jacob ever got the land. It appears that he did not, for the court of Berkeley County Virginia had already in 1805 recognized William Pennybaker as the legitimate heir of Conrad.

Ed Upton believed that this William must be Conrad's brother, who was then living in Frederick County Virginia. William seems not to have got the land either. The claims dragged on all the way to 1838, at which time the state of Virginia issued a certificate allowing something not quite specified to Conrad Pennybaker for his services as Fife Major during the Revolution, and delivered it to Adam Penabayker as certified next of kin. Probably, this was at long last a certificate for the bounty land, and that Adam was a son of William. All these dealings have the virtue of suggesting, if not proving, some of the relationships in this branch of the family.

The following is included to give some account of the evidence on which Jacob's family has been constructed. This evidence is diverse and not entirely straightforward:

Jacob's wife Christina

Her first name appears in the record of the baptism of their first child, Jacob, 19 Aug 1759 in the New Goshenhoppen Reformed Church. This is already a notable event because it is the first and nearly the only appearance of any of Hendrick's descendants in that church, or in any Reformed Church. Frederick's descendants can be found aplenty in those same church records, but it is very rare to find Hendrick's family represented. The baptism record names Jacob and Christina as parents of the baby Jacob.

Thus there is no doubt that Jacob married a Christina. Her identification as the daughter of Conrad Dotterer is based on:

- 1) Anna Susanna Dotterer, no known relative of the Pannebeckers, was one of the two witnesses at the baptism. Witnesses in this period were almost always close relatives of one of the parents.
- 2) Conrad Dotterer of New Goshenhoppen had a known daughter Christina.
- 3) A historian of the Dotterer family wrote that Christina probably married Jacob Pannebecker.
- 4) Jacob's sister Margaret, who was 16 and probably unmarried at the time of the baptism, married another Dotterer within the next year. It was common in those days for marriages to run in families.
- 5) The next son of Jacob and Christina was named Conrad, a name otherwise unknown in the Pannebecker family in the 1700's.

Tracing Jacob in Maryland and Virginia

Jacob appears to be the first in any Pannebecker family to have left Pennsylvania, and that is no doubt the reason the SWP lost track of him. Just when he left is unknown, but in 1771 he appears in Loudoun County Virginia. Shortly afterward he is in Frederic County Maryland, then back in Virginia in Berkeley County - all this by 1777 - and much later in Frederick County Virginia. All those places are right next to each other, with the Potomac dividing the Maryland county from the others.

How do we know it was Jacob running around down there, and not some other Jacob Pannebecker? There were after all 4 grandsons of Hendrick by that name. True, but SWP gives a good account of the other three. They all stayed in Pennsylvania, and that is confirmed by tax and census records. But even without that we would recognize Jacob by his wife Christina. They are named together at the baptism of another child in Maryland, 1773. And Christina appears in court in Virginia in 1779, being awarded an allowance because her husband Jacob is "a soldier in the Continental service". (Berkeley Co. VA, 17 Nov 1779)

The absolutely certain children

There are two, Jacob and Susanna Catharina. Both are established as children of Jacob and Christina by church records of baptisms. Jacob may have died young, since there is no further record of him. Susannah however was married in Berkeley Co. VA in 1788, to Peter Mock. That was just 15 years after her baptism, which makes me think she must have been baptized at the age of 2 or 3.

Two nearly certain daughters

Elizabeth and Sarah are nearly certain members of this family because they were married in the same church and by the same minister as the proven daughter Susanna. Elizabeth married Fred Snyder, 25 Jan 1785 and Sarah married Lewis Lane, 18 Nov 1788.

Two less certain daughters

Mary and Margaret were also married in Berkeley County within a few years of the other girls, but the records come through a different channel and the minister is not named. Judging by time and place they seem to belong to this family. There are no other known Pannebeckers in Virginia except Dirck's family and even they weren't there when Mary was married. Dirck's children were in any case well covered by SWP, and these girls are not among them. And Dirck settled farther south in Shenandoah County.

William and Conrad

These two are treated together because they lean to some extent on each other. There is little doubt that they were brothers. William was recognized by the court of Berkeley County as Conrad's legitimate heir after Conrad died in the army. William's age is known within about 5 years from the census, and he is of an age to be Conrad's younger brother and not a son. There is in any case sworn testimony that Conrad had only one son, and his name was Jacob. How did William then get himself recognized as the heir? Well, Jacob and his mother had gone off to western Pennsylvania, and that put them out of the running.

William's tie to his presumed father Jacob is mainly a matter of his age and his residence in Frederick County VA, 1800-1820. Jacob was also in Frederick County at that time, and once again there were no other known Pannebeckers around except some much younger ones who are William's children. That alone strongly suggests that William is Jacob's son but doesn't entirely prove it. But William is also tied to Conrad and Conrad has ties to Jacob too.

Conrad's tie to Jacob is first of all his name, which has to be for Christina's father Conrad Dotterer. Secondly there is Conrad's only son Jacob, as per sworn testimony, and that name ties in with the elder Jacob. Third, Jacob was a soldier and so was Conrad, and they were nearly the only ones in all the Pannebecker clan. That suggests a close relationship too. Fourth, Conrad was already ending one term of enlistment in April 1778. He can't have been much younger than 18. He has to be the son of some Pannebecker who was having children by about 1760 or 1761, and there are precious few in his generation like that. Jacob is one of the few, and he was in Virginia and so was Conrad.

Conrad's residence in Virginia is unknown, and the probable truth is that he never had any real residence of his own. He joined the army when he was something like 16-18, and he died in the service a few years later. It seems significant that in the ensuing long wrangle over who was Conrad's heir and who would be awarded bounty land for Conrad's service, it was the Berkeley County Court that had jurisdiction. That was probably home to Conrad, and that is what you would expect if he were the son of Jacob.

If any member has information on or corrections to this family line, please contact us. We would be especially interested in knowing about any descendants of Conrad or William Pennybaker.

Message From The President

Greetings all. Hoping everyone has had all the summer fun necessary to begin the next season. We here had a terrible growing season on gardens. Cold and little rain. Recently the rains began so the soy beans and corn look like a bumper harvest is imminent. Hope so to maybe keep prices under control.

Our organization is alive and well. I want to thank everyone again for sticking with us. We had renewal from almost everyone during our latest dues appeal.

Consider this list of things I believe we need the most.

1. Someone to begin planning for another reunion. It has been 15 years since we had the last one.
2. Members continuing to send in stories, facts etc., for their families. Migration, accomplishments and that sort of thing.
3. Ideas.
4. Utilization of our queries feature. We receive essentially no requests for lineage studies or descent lines.
5. Members to assume leadership and advisory roles in our organization. I am going to be 80 very soon and I want to step down knowing that the organization will continue and prosper.
6. Don't forget our internet page.

Feel free to contact me via phone or email at any time about any subject. If I don't have an answer, I will try to find one. I work essentially every day researching the census records and FindAGrave records. Would be happy to share lineage info with you.

Until next time.

Pannebakker Family Association Web Site

If you would like a user name and password, you must contact Bruce Pennypacker at, throwcoach@gmail.com and the necessary information will be sent to you.

Below is the URL for the web site:

<http://www.pannebakkerfamilyassociation.com>

Officers

President: Ron Mitchell
N202 County Road B
Kewaunee, WI 54216-9520

Vice President: Linda Millerick
751 Monterey Salinas Hwy.
Salinas, CA 93908-8953

Secretary: Marcea P. Kligman
4170 Summit Way
Marietta, GA 30066-2346

Treasurer: Bill McNeary
601 East Cypress Street
Charleston, MO 63834

Membership: Sandie Miller
255 Shoreline Drive
Columbia, SC 29212-8024

Newsletter: Bruce Pennypacker
201 Shady Brook Drive
Langhorne, PA 19047
throwcoach@gmail.com
(215) 380-1748

Board of Directors

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Pannebakker Family Association



The Pannebakker Family Association is an outgrowth of the family reunion held at Pennypacker Mills, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on July 2-4, 1999. The reunion celebrated the 300th year wedding anniversary of Hendrick Pannebecker and Eve Umstat, in Germantown, Pennsylvania in the year 1699. In the words of the Steering Committee of the reunion, "We hope that the 1999 Pfannebecker-Umstat Reunion will lead to the growth of a family association, which will provide a forum for conversation, collection and preservation of information, and a sense of lasting community among the heirs of this rich cultural heritage."