

PANNEBAKKER FAMILY NEWS



Pannebakker

NEWSLETTER OF THE PANNEBAKKER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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Oh, Susannah!

It had always been taken for granted, at least by this amateur genealogist, that whatever had been written by Governor Samuel Whitaker Pennypacker in his handwritten, "*Genealogy of the Pennypacker Family*", was true and well researched. After all, the Governor's work on the genealogy of the family is amazing considering that he had no email, no **Ancestry.com** to go to and no computer to assemble and edit the findings. He spoke to, or wrote letters to, everyone in the family and compiled the information in his book.

I'm pretty sure the Governor considered his sources to be accurate, and he probably took great pains to make sure they were so. However, it's kind of a, you get what you get, situation. In the hundred-or-so years since the Governor's book was written, and I must once again emphasize the fact that the book was *handwritten*, new information has been found to refute some of the entries. In most cases, the new information is not really new, just newly found. The Governor had no access to this information, so he can't be held responsible for it.

A good case in point is the newly found information about the children of Hendrick and Eve.

These are the children of Hendrick and Eve as listed by Governor Pennypacker:

Martha June 16, 1700 - Sept. 15, 1761
Adolph about 1708 - about May, 1787
Peter March 8, 1710 - June 28, 1770
John Aug 27, 1713 - June 14, 1784
Jacob about 1715 - May 27, 1752
Henry about 1717 - May 31, 1792
Susannah (n)
Barbara about 1720

These are the children listed by Hendrick in his own handwriting on the pages of a book called, the Writings of Jacob Brill:

January 12, 1702, my daughter **Martha** was born between 12 and 1 o'clock.
 June 8, 1704, my daughter **Catharine** was born between 6 and seven.
 February 14, 1707, my son **Adolph** was born.
 March 8, 1710, my son **Peter** was born.
 August 27, 1713, my son **John** was born.
 June 28, 1716, my daughter **Barbara** was born.

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March 5, 1719, **Jacob** was born between 5 and 6 in the morning.
September 26, 1725, my son **Henry** was born at 6 in the afternoon.

Obviously, there are differences. It is clear that Governor Pennypacker never saw this information. One of the biggest questions about all this is, who is Susannah?

Several people have given their opinions on this. Some feel that Susannah and Catharine are the same person, perhaps her name was Susannah Catharine or Catharine Susannah. Others have suggested that Catharine may have died young and there was no record of her for the Governor to find. Still others have the idea that Hendrick might have written it all down wrong, or was too old to remember his daughter, Susannah, or maybe Susannah hadn't been born at the time of Hendrick's writing.

All are possible, I suppose, but some are highly unlikely. Since Hendrick recorded his information in the book by Jacob Bril in the year 1745, I don't think Susannah would have been born after the writing mostly because Eve died in 1739. Sure, there could have been a second wife, but Hendrick was born in 1674, making him 71 in 1745, and, well I don't think so!

Catharine could have died young. This idea is supported by the fact that in the year 1710, Hendrick and Eve took three of their children to be baptized. Those three were; Adolph, Martha and Peter. So where was Catharine? According to Hendrick, Catharine was the second born, right between Martha and Adolph. Had she been baptized previously? Was she sick that day? No one knows for sure, but I can't believe Hendrick would leave out the part about his daughter's death.

Susannah and Catharine could have been the same person. Certainly possible, but there is no evidence to prove that.

Another interesting possibility is that there was no Susannah. This is a theory suggested by Carl Klase, curator at Pennypacker Mills. The question is, where did Governor Pennypacker get the name Susannah in the first place? Carl suggests that someone in the Keyser line, when doing the genealogy, thought her name was Susannah and that is why the Governor and everyone else thought her name was Susannah. For those of you who don't know, Susannah, or whatever her name was, married Peter Keyser. I've contacted the Keyser folks, but have heard nothing from them. In many of the Keyser genealogies, Susannah is listed as being born in 1718, and she and Peter are listed as being married in 1740 in Ringkobing, Denmark.

I just don't know where that came from either!

There is always the possibility that Susannah did exist, and was married to Peter Keyser and that she was not the daughter of Hendrick.

In any case, it's all part of what keeps genealogists busy! I still haven't figured out what that little (n) next to Susannah's name in the Governor's list is all about.

Dirck Pennybacker

(Compiled from "A History of Shenandoah County, Virginia," "The German Element of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia," and current research done by Sherry Johnson and others. This compilation is intended for personal, non-commercial use only.)

Dirck (also spelled Derick or Derrick) Pennybacker was born January 1, 1737 in Pennsylvania to a prosperous and prominent family. He was a son of Col. John Pennebacker and a grandson of Henry (Hendrick) Pannebecker. The spelling of the surname was altered more than once over the generations. Dirck, although a Quaker, served as a captain in the Berks County (Pennsylvania) militia.

Dirck married Hannah DeHaven on March 3, 1756 in Pennsylvania, when he was 19 years old. They had at least 9 children (and at least 64 grandchildren):

1. Benjamin D. Pennybacker, 1760-1820, married Sarah Margaret Samuels, 13 children
2. Rebecca Pennybacker, about 1762-1830, married George Mayberry, 8 children
3. Abraham Pennybacker, 1764-1819, married Elizabeth Ruffner, 9 children
4. Elizabeth Pennybacker, 1766-1824, married Isaac Samuels, 11 children
5. John Pennybacker, 1768-1834, married Phebe Fugett, 12 children
6. Hannah Pennybacker, 1770-1856, married Mounce (Moses) Bird, Jr., 10 children
7. Dirck/Derrick Pennybacker, Jr, 1780-1817, married Elizabeth Neal, 1 child
8. Catherine "Caty" Pennybacker, 1781-1860, marriage and children unknown
9. Mary "Polly" Pennybacker, abt. 1783-?, marriage and children unknown

On February 3, 1770 Dirck Pennybacker purchased a gristmill and farm on 200 acres in Amity Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania from the estate of William Bird of Birdsboro. Dirck was very prosperous during the Revolutionary War, when his gristmill supplied flour to the Continental Army. However, his business declined when the war ended, and in May 1783 he lost his gristmill and land as a result of a lawsuit over a debt. His land was seized and sold at a sheriff's sale to pay the debt. At that time, 1783, Dirck and his family left Pennsylvania and moved briefly to Washington County, Maryland near Sharpsburg, where he leased an iron-working establishment. However, within a few months a flood destroyed the operation and Dirck left Maryland for Virginia. According to a deposition made in 1814 by his son Benjamin, Dirck and family arrived in the Shenandoah Valley in [late] 1783.

In December of 1783, records show Dirck accepted the results of a survey done to establish the boundaries of a land grant in Shenandoah County, Virginia. He and his family moved onto this land and Dirck built Redwell Furnace on Hawksbill Creek near Luray. Soon he and his family established another forge and iron works business on Smith Creek near New Market, Virginia, which they called Pine Forge.

He was in Pine Forge in 1784, as evidenced by a letter he wrote from there to his brother Jacob regarding their father John's death on June 14, 1784 and the settlement of the estate. The letter, as transcribed in about 1877 by Gov. Samuel W. Pennypacker, who was in possession of the letter at that time, read:

"To Jacob Pennybacker, Pine Forge October 16, 1784

My advice to you is to Make Sale of the place at any Time when it Suits you but I shall be willing to Make a Sale at any time when Required wick you may Rely on. I will be down in the Spring and expect whe can settle without any farder cost. Any farder I have Nottien to Rite as whe are all well at present. Hoping thes Lines wil find you all in the Same. I Remember my Kind Love to you all spesly to Mother. If the winter should prove faberel [favorable?] it is Likele I shall be down about the first of January.

Derick Pennybacker

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I should be willing if there could be some Money made up for Samul for I Expect he must want it as he has had Nottien of the Estate yet."

The iron-working businesses were very successful, and Dirck's descendants started additional iron businesses. The Pennybackers are considered to be the pioneers of the iron working industry. A few stoves can still be found today with the name "D. Pennybacker" on them. A local census in 1785 reported that Dirck Pennybacker had 64 "white souls" in his household, which seems like a very large number of people, but probably included workers in his iron business, in addition to sons, daughters, and sons-in-law.

Dirck worked as an iron master until his accidental death at age 65. Older histories reported his death as 1799, but his obituary has since been found. It was published in the March 3, 1802 issue of the Winchester Gazette and establishes that his death occurred on February 15, 1802 at Pine Forge. The obituary reads: "On the evening of Monday the 15th Derrick Pennybacker, Esq., of Shenandoah was casually [causually? accidentally?] killed by a fall from his horse. The day following his remains were decently interred on his own premises attended by a very numerous concourse of relatives and friends."

His will, written 21 Oct 1798 and proved 1 Apr 1802, was located among the unrecorded wills in the Shenandoah County Clerks Office. Dirck/Derrick Pennybacker made bequests to his wife Hannah, to his sons Benjamin, Derrick, John, and Abraham, to his daughters Hannah Bird, Caty Pennybacker, and Polly Pennybacker, and to son-in-laws George Mayberry (married to daughter Rebecca) and Isaac Samuels (married to daughter Elizabeth).

Dirck and Hannah's grandson Isaac Samuels Pennybacker (1805-1847), son of their eldest son Benjamin and his wife Sarah Margaret Samuels, became a well-known lawyer, federal judge, and politician who represented Virginia in the U.S. House from 1837-39 and served as U.S. Senator from Virginia from 1845-47.

Message From The President

Greetings and a Merry Christmas to all our wonderful members.

Hoping each of you are getting into the Christmas spirit of good will and happiness. Here in my location in Wisconsin, we have no snow on the ground and there is still corn in the fields to be harvested. Guess some are lucky. Last year we had lots of snow on the ground and not the best time to be combining corn.

Health wise Carol and I are thankful for continued good health. She is suffering currently from back pains and decorating for Christmas has taken a back seat but we will manage.

We certainly wish good health to everyone and a wonderful New Year.

I would like to stress the importance of feedback from you our members. We need input for newsletter items and we can always use input on planning and other jobs. Please keep us in mind for the continued success of our organization.

Till next time. Merry Christmas as we lay another year to rest.

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

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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."