

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

IN SEARCH OF MATHIAS MASSER

By Charles and Marcia Masser

Charles and Marcia Masser live in North Carolina. This document was originally presented at the Masser family reunion, Hegins, Pennsylvania, on August 8, 2004.

Mathias Masser was born in Lossburg, Württemberg. Lossburg is a small town located in Southwest Germany about three miles south of Freudenstadt or forty miles southwest of Stuttgart (Figure 1).

From the church register book in Lossburg, we find that Mathias was born on August 3, 1732 and baptized the next day. His parents were Ludwig and Anna Maria Kaüpp Masser. Sponsors were Jacob Ziegler, Hans Michael Meyer, and Anna Barbara, wife of Isaac Wagner, Luth. (Figure 2a). The focus of this document is the supporting information to prove this Mathias of Lossburg is indeed our Mathias of Berks County, Pennsylvania.

The first step in this process is to develop a family group listing or chart for Ludwig and Anna Maria Masser from the Lossburg Church book records. The first church book of Lossburg contains the following: The baptismal records start in 1628



Figure 1. Lossburg

and end in 1788, marriages start in 1650 and end in 1807 and the death records start in 1652 and end in 1752. This church register is located at the archives in Stuttgart, Germany and has been microfilmed by the Family History Center Library on microfilm #1884464. The microfilmed church records do not start again until 1846. At this time we do not know where or if the records between exist.



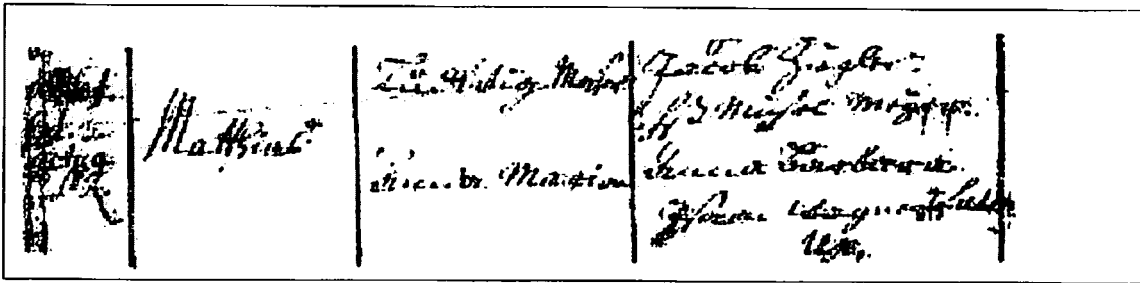


Figure 2a: In 1732, Born 03 Aug baptized the next day; Matthias; Parents Ludwig Masser and Anna Maria, wife; Sponsors; Jacob Ziegler, Hans Michel Meyer, Anna Barbara, wife of Isaac Wagner, Luth.

Note: In Figures 2a, b, c and d, italics indicates year of record and column headings recorded at the top of the page.

The result of this first step is found on Table 1. The baptismal records yielded eight children born from the union of Ludwig and Anna Maria. They were: (1) Johann Jacob, (2) Catharina, (3) Anna Barbara, (4) Johann Ludwig, (5) Matthias, (6) Johann Christopher, (7) Johann Ludwig, and (8) Maria Magdalena.

Table 1

Family of Ludwig and Anna Maria Masser II Parents of Matthias

Ludwig Masser (Carpenter)

Born/Bap.: 15/16 July 1697, Lossburg, Württemberg, Germany

Married: 28 January 1721

Died: after 1752, before 31 January 1758

Anna Maria Kaupp

Born/Bap:

Children:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Johann Jacob | Born/bapt 12 Apr 1722; married Anna Maria Waltz on St. James Day 1747 |
| 2. Catharina | Born/bapt 25/26 Nov 1724; died/bur 27/28 Mar 1727 |
| 3. Anna Barbara | Born/bapt 12 Oct 1727 |
| 4. Johann Ludwig | Born 30 Nov 1729; died 17 Jun 1732 |
| 5. Matthias | Born/bapt 3/4 Aug 1732 |
| 6. Johann Christopher | Born/bapt 19/20 May 1735; Died 15 Apr 1740 |
| 7. Johann Ludwig | Born/bapt 13/14 Apr 1738; Died 28 Aug 1738 |
| 8. Maria Magdalena | Born 25 Sep 1739; Married Georg Christian Schmidt 31 Jan 1758 |

Notes:

- Anna Maria Kaupp was first married to Jacob Kübler on 17 May 1718. He died on 30 Mar 1719 at 21 years.
- The Lossburg Württemberg Church book is located at the archives in Stuttgart, Germany. In the US a microfilm of the records can be reviewed at any Family History Center library on tape #1884464.

From the original lists of arriving German pioneers ship records of the three volume work by Strassburger and Hinke, (Vol. 1, page 499 and Vol. 2, page 596), Mathias Masser arrived in America aboard the ship *Duke of Württemberg* on October 20, 1752. On this same ship list of pioneers is Johann Jacob Masser. It appears the two brothers came together.

We continue to search the Lossburg church records for marriages and deaths for the family of Ludwig and Anna Maria. We find that Johann Jacob Masser married Anna Maria Waltz on St. James day in 1747 (Figure 2b). We also find the deaths of four children: #2 Catharina, died March

27, 1727; #4 Johann Ludwig died June 17, 1732; #6 Johann Christopher died April 15, 1740; and #7 Johann Ludwig died August 28, 1738. All died prior to the immigration of Mathias and Johann Jacob in 1752. We also found the marriage of #8 Maria Magdalena to Georg Christian Schmidt on January 31, 1758. Maria Magdalena therefore did not emigrate with Mathias. The same cannot be said for #3 Anna Barbara. As with Mathias, we were unable to find her marriage or death in the church records. As mentioned earlier, the death records stopped in 1752. She possibly could have been on the ship with Mathias and Johann Jacob's family. Further research may answer the question.

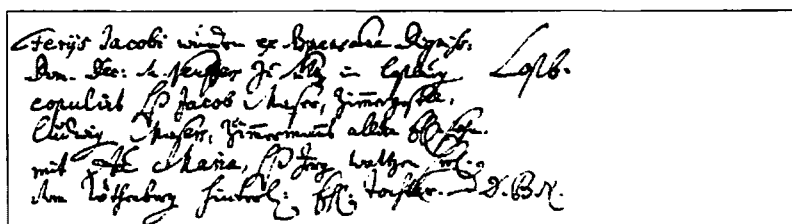


Figure 2b: In 1747, Lossburg, Ferÿs Jacobi [St. James the Elder Apostle day, July 25] was by special dispensation, Sunday. Dean M. Neuffer of Sulz in Lossburg married Hanns Jacob Masser, carpenter journeyman, Ludwig Masser's, the carpenter, oldest legitimate son and Anna Maria, Hanss Gerg Waltz, deceased from Rùthenburg, surviving single daughter.

Returning to focus on the assumption that Mathias and Johann Jacob Masser were together on the ship *Duke of Württemberg* we examined the marriage record of Johann Jacob Masser to Anna Maria Waltz. The marriage occurred in 1747. In the baptisms we found one child, Catharine, born September 26, 1748. (Figure 2c). On her record was written "in Pennsylvania." In fact on the same page of the church book was the baptism of Hanss Georg Wessner, son of Jacob Wessner and wife Elisabeth, born July 06, 1748 with the note "in

Pennsylvania" also written. We decided to list all the families in the baptismal records that had this note attached. They are listed on Table 2. Also noted on that table are the families that came on the ship *Duke of Württemberg* on October 20, 1752. In the reference book *Pennsylvania German Immigrants 1709-1786*, edited by Don Yoder, all of the families noted on the Table 2 are listed in the Adolf Gerber Lists. However, not all are listed on the *Duke of Württemberg* passenger list.

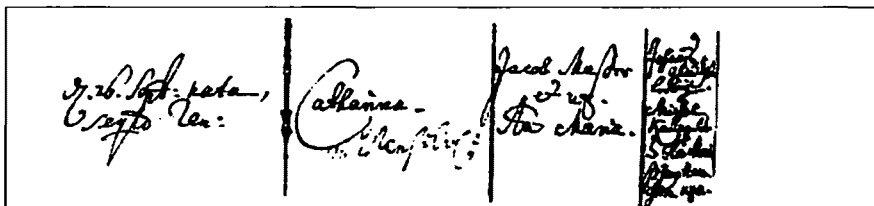


Figure 2c: Born 1748, 26 September born, the next day baptized; Child Catharina (with note) in Pennsylvania; Parents, Jacob Masser and wife Anna Maria; Sponsors, Johann Gluchó single, Michael Käüpp, and Anna Maria, Hanss Jerg H----'s wife

As a side note, additional children were born to these families noted on Table 2. An example is Jacob Fissler. His name is followed by Johann Michael Fissler and Johann Georg Fissler on the *Duke of Württemberg* passenger list of October 20, 1752. We examined the Lossburg baptismal records and

found that Johann Jacob Fissler and his wife had thirteen children. Johann Michael was born January 29, 1730 and Johann Georg was born May 28, 1731, making them over 21 years of age at the time of immigration.

Table 2

Lossburg Families with an "In Pennsylvania" notation in the Baptismal Records

1. Matthaus Moessner born 23 Jan 1746 to Hans Jacob Moessner and Elisabetha
2. Catharina Heintzelmann, born 23 Feb 1746 to Simon Heintzelmann^ and Anna Maria
3. Anna Maria Reyhfuss, born 27 Sep 1746 to Hanss Jacob Reyhfuss+ and Catharina
4. Dorothea Fissler, born 7 Nov 1746 to Jacob Fissler* and Eva
5. Johann Michael Schantz, born 24 Nov 1746 to Blasiz Schantz* and Christina
6. Joh Georg Reyhfuss, born 15 Dec 1747 to Hanss Jacob Reyhfuss+ and Catharina
7. Anna Maria Heintzelmann, born 26 Mar 1748 to Simon Heintzelmann^ and Anna Maria
8. Hanss Georg Wessner, born 6 Jul 1748 to Jacob Wessner *# and Elisabeth
9. Catharina Masser, born 26 Sep 1748 to Jacob Masser* and Anna Maria
10. Johann Georg Bruder, born 20 Aug 1749 to Matthias Bruder* and Christina
11. Lucia Heintzelmann, born 28 Dec 1749 to Simon Heintzelmann^ and Anna Maria
12. Christina Reyhfuss, born 19 Jul 1750 to Hanss Jacob Reyhfuss+ and Catharina
13. Martin Wessner, born 16 Jan 1751 to Hans Jacob Wessner*# and Elisabetha
14. Johannes Fissler, born 10 Mar 1752 to Jacob Fissler* and Eva

* Denotes families aboard *Duke of Württemberg*, October 20, 1752

+ The Reyhfuss family landed in Halifax, Nova Scotia aboard the ship *Pearl* on 6 Jun 1752 and settled in Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia.

^ A Heintzelman family was found to reside in Lehigh, Pennsylvania, with land adjacent to Adam Clause in 1766.

A Wessner family settled in Wessnerville, Albany Twp., Berks Co. Jacob Wesner was in Oley Twp., Berks Co., Pennsylvania 1767; Jacob Wesner, laborer, with Martin Wesner, mason, Oley Twp., Berks Co., Pennsylvania 1767.

Notes:

a) *Matthias Bruder left an estate in Longswamp Twp., Berks Co., PA on 3 Nov 1762, administration of Christina Bruder, the widow. A Mathew Brother, weaver, Longswamp Twp., Berks Co., PA 1780, spelled Mathias Bruder, 1784.*

b) *A Jacob Fesler is with Albright Fesler in Pine Grove Twp., Berks Co., PA 1784.*

Another piece of supporting data that Mathias and Johann Jacob came to Pennsylvania is a baptismal record at Christ (Mertz) Lutheran Church in Rockland Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. Johann Jacob and wife Anna Maria sponsored Anna Maria, the first child born to Mathias and Barbara Masser on November 2, 1762. As a final note, the

signatures of Mathias on the *Duke of Württemberg* passenger list matches the signature of Mathias on his will from the Berks County Court records.

Summarizing the facts in support of Mathias Masser of Lossburg Germany being the same as our Mathias Masser of Berks County Pennsylvania, we have:

A) Mathias and Johann Jacob Masser were sons of Ludwig and Anna Maria Masser of Lossburg, Germany.

B) Johann Jacob Masser married Anna Maria Waltz in Lossburg, and gave birth to a girl, Catharina, whose baptismal church record notes emigrated to Pennsylvania.

C) No record of a Mathias Masser marriage or death was found in the Lossburg records.

D) The ship list for the *Duke of Württemberg* for October 20, 1752 lists both Mathias and Johann Jacob Masser as passengers.

E) The first child born to Mathias Masser and his wife, Barbara, in Berks County, Pennsylvania was Anna Maria, who was sponsored by Jacob Masser and his wife, Anna Maria.

F) The signature of Mathias Masser on the ship passenger list matches his signature to court records in Berks County, Pennsylvania.

G) Other families from Lossburg emigrated on the same ship.

We feel the above facts are sufficient to conclude that the Mathias Masser born to Ludwig and Anna Maria in Lossburg, Germany is the same Mathias Masser of Berks County, Pennsylvania. The only disappointing piece of information relates to the age of Mathias at his death. A copy of the original records of Reverend Philip Pauli located at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, states Mathias Masser was buried July 22, 1797, aged 64 years less 2 days.

As supplemental information, we wanted to include data from the Lossburg church records on the grandparents of Mathias Masser. This information is found on Table 3. Ludwig Masser's father was Johannes, date of birth is unknown at this time. Johannes had two wives. He married first Anna Maria on June 10, 1662 and from that union were eight children. Anna Maria died March 25, 1675. Johannes second marriage was to Elisabetha Reyh on November 7, 1675, and from this union eleven children werer found, including one set of twins. Ludwig Masser was the last child born to Johannes and Elisabetha Masser on July 15, 1697 and baptized the next day (Figure 2d).

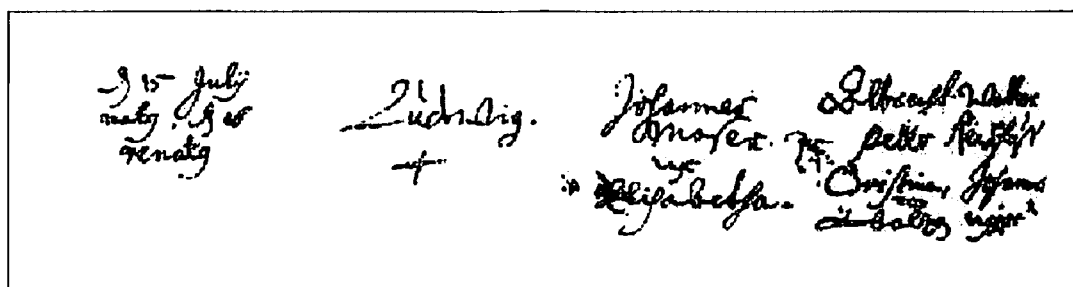


Figure 2d: Born 1697, 15 July born the next day baptized; Child Ludwig; Parents, Johannes Masser and wife Elisabetha; Sponsors, Albrecht Walter, Peter Rechfuss, and Christina, Johannes Waltz's wife.

As one can see, the German script can be difficult if not impossible to read or translate at times. We did the best we could and hope that errors were kept to a minimum. As for the spelling of "Masser," it appears to have evolved over time from when it first appears in the Lossburg Church records on June 10, 1662 until when Mathias and Johann Jacob came to Pennsylvania.

Table 3

Family of Johannes Mausser, Father of Ludwig

Johannes Mausser/Maasser/Masser (carpenter)

Born: unknown

Died: 4 December 1709 Lossburg

Married: #1, 10 June 1662**Anna Maria**, widow of Hanss Jacob Matt of Lossburg

Died: 25 Mar 1675 Lossburg, Buried: 25 Mar 1675 Lossburg

Children:

1 **Christian** bapt 15 Nov 1662; marr. #1, 28 Oct 1685 Magdalena Ekziess, #2, 24 July 1697 Agatha

Eyssie(sp?): died/bur 17/19 Feb 1719 at 57 years.

2 **Johannes** bapt 03 Jun 1664; died 25 Nov 17433 **Magdalena** bapt 25 Aug 1665; died 17 July 16894 **Anna Margretha** bapt 28 Sept 1667; died 5 Mar 17315 **Waldburga** bapt. 01 Feb 1669; died 12 May 17256 **Matthias** bapt. 18 Mar 1671; died7 **Matthias** bapt. 16 May 1673; died 08 Apr 17068 **Catharina** bapt 25 Mar 1675; Died 25 Mar 1675**Married: #2, 7 Nov 1675****Elisabetha Reyh**, daughter of Jerg Reyh of Lombach

Children:

1 **Hanss Jerg** bapt. 30 Mar 1678; died 10 Sept 16782 **Barbara** bapt. 26 Aug 16793 **Anna** bapt. 7 Sept 1681; died/bur. 16/17 Jan 16824 **Johann Georg** born/bapt 24/24 Dec 1682 moved to Wittensweiler5 **Anna** born/bapt. 17/18 Dec 1684; marr. 28 Dec 1713 Mathias Brenner6 **Johann Jacob** born/bapt. 7/7 Feb 1687; marr. #1, 12 Nov 1708 Catharina Siger, #2, 17 May 1718

Christina Plutz; died 21 Nov 1738 at age 51 years

7 **Anna Maria** born/bapt. 20/21 Nov 1688; died 24 Dec 1696, 8 years8 **Melchior** (twin) born/bapt. 3/3 Mar 1691; marr: #1, 25 Nov 1721 Anna Hertzog, #2, 7 Aug 1748 Anna Maria ____; died/bur 11/13 May 17509 **Tobius** (twin) born/bapt 3/3 Mar 1691 died10 **Elisabetha** born/bapt 12/13 Dec 1694: marr. 6 May 1721 Johann Heinrich Zigler11 **Ludwig** born/bapt 15/16 July 1697; marr, 28 Jan 1721 **Anna Maria Kaüpp**ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY