

The authors trace Deacon Michael Witwer's second son, Joseph, from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to the Cumberland Valley.

Witwer Family

## OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

# The Witwer Family of Earl Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania: Part Three, Joseph Witwer

By Denise Witwer Lahr and Thomas Witwer Richards<sup>1</sup>

Michael Witwer's second son, Joseph, was born on May 21, 1744.<sup>2</sup> In the Witwer genealogy his stated year of birth is incorrect,<sup>3</sup> and the authors expressed doubt that he had any living heirs.<sup>4</sup> The only accurate information provided was that he "migrated South or West in an early day."<sup>5</sup>

### Joseph Witwer's Land Holdings

Joseph first appears in the Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, tax rolls in 1769 as "Joseph Whitmore," the owner of one hundred acres of land in Earl Township.<sup>6</sup> No recorded instrument could be found for this land. He appears as "Joseph Witwer" in 1770,<sup>7</sup> "Joseph Whitmore" in 1771 and 1772,<sup>8</sup> and "Joseph Witmor" in 1773,<sup>9</sup> the last year that he can be found in Lancaster County.

By 1775 "Joseph Widwer" had purchased a "Messuage or Tenement Water Corn Mill or Grist Mill, Plantation and Tract of Land," consisting of 130 acres, ninety-nine perches, along the Conococheague Creek in Letterkenny Township of Cumberland County, an area that would later become part of Franklin County.<sup>10</sup> The location of this tract is shown as tract 1 in figure 1. This land and mill were assessed to him in the 1776, 1780, and 1781 tax rolls.<sup>11</sup> Additionally, Joseph was listed in the

Pennsylvania Militia rolls for Cumberland County in the early 1780s.<sup>12</sup>

Joseph may have started in the milling business like his father, the Mennonite deacon Michael Witwer, and his grandfather, Hans Wittwer. However, by 1782 he had turned his attention solely to farming. In that year he purchased a separate 237-acre parcel of land along the Conococheague that he called Widwerton.<sup>13</sup> The survey of Widwerton is included as figure 2, and the location is shown as tract 2 in figure 1. Tract 2 was assessed to Joseph Witwer in the 1782 tax rolls and did not include a mill.<sup>14</sup>

Although Joseph purchased additional land in Cumberland County in 1790,<sup>15</sup> Widwerton remained his home for the rest of his life. Among his neighbors along the Conococheague was the family of George Eby.<sup>16</sup> On May 12, 1800, Joseph Widwer served as witness to the will of George Eby.<sup>17</sup> Eby operated a mill on the property directly south of Widwerton and was the younger brother of Peter Eby of Warwick Township, the subject of an article in a previous issue of this magazine.<sup>18</sup>

In March 1813 Joseph Widwer also served as a witness to the will of George McIlroy, one of his nearest neighbors to the north.<sup>19</sup> The fact that McIlroy was also a witness to the Eby will suggests a close relationship

<sup>1</sup>The authors wish to thank the many people who participated in compiling this story. In particular, thanks go to Terry Wagner of Scot-Greene, Inc.; Levan and Heather Gray, who live on the property and allowed one of the authors to "trespass" many times; Paul Holbrook, scoutmaster; Daniel Lehman and Dr. Whitfield J. Bell for reading the manuscript; Jerry Cramer and Mary Ellen Strang for discussions regarding the descendants of Joseph Witwer; Margie Hulen Lasek of the Washington County, Iowa, Genealogical Society; Sally Atkinson for preparation of the maps; and, as always, our spouses for their patience.

<sup>2</sup>Personal observation of gravestone in Witwer Farm Graveyard (DWL), May 15, 2003; transcriptions of gravestones for Witwer Farm Graveyard on file at Kittichtinny Historical Society, Chambersburg, Pa.

<sup>3</sup>Reverend George Witwer and Ananias Clime Witwer, *Witwer Genealogy [sic] of America* (Ind.: Authors, 1909), 14.

<sup>4</sup>*Ibid.*, 18.

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup>*Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Tax Records, 1750-1855*, microfilm no. 6047, roll no. 11, Earl Twp., frames 85 and 95, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, Pa.

<sup>7</sup>*Ibid.*, frame 113.

<sup>8</sup>*Ibid.*, frames 123, 134.

<sup>9</sup>*Ibid.*, frame 143.

<sup>10</sup>Deed D-1-376, dated Apr. 25, 1775, from William Mitchel, "miller," and his wife, Mary, to Joseph Widwer, Letterkenny Twp., Cumberland Co., "farmer," Cumberland County Archives, Carlisle, Pa. This early

purchase is described in Edsel Burdge Jr. and Samuel L. Horst, *Building on the Gospel Foundation* (Scottsdale, Pa.: Herald Press, 2004), 95, although the name is reported to be Whitmore. For a discussion of the many written variations on the name Wittwer, refer to pt. 1 of this series.

<sup>11</sup>1776 *Tax Rates*, Letterkenny Township, Cumberland County, microfilm no. 1401, 179, "Joseph Widwer"; 1780 *Tax Rates*, 191, "Joseph Whitmore." Also, 1781 *Tax Rates*, Letterkenny Township, Cumberland County, microfilm no. 1402, 187, "Joseph Witwer"; all Pennsylvania State Archives.

<sup>12</sup>Thomas Lynch Montgomery, ed., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 5th ser., vol. 6 (Harrisburg, Pa.: Harrisburg Publishing Co., 1906), 78, 97, 106, 585. Note that Joseph is always listed with James and Albert Torrance. Also, Burdge and Horst, *Building on the Gospel Foundation*, 117, 118.

<sup>13</sup>Deed 1-244, Franklin County Archives, Chambersburg, Pa. Thomas and James Hope, both of Letterkenny Twp., to Joseph Widwer, of the same place for £600, dated May 11, 1782, for 259 acres, 24 perches, originally surveyed for Charles Torrance. (Charles Torrance had sold his interest to James Torrance, and James, in turn, had sold his interest to the Hopes.) Joseph obtained a warrant for this tract (W-26, Franklin Co.) on Aug. 15, 1789: The original survey (C-218-280), prepared on Apr. 18, 1768, was returned on Aug. 17, 1789. The next day 237 acres, 25 perches, were patented to Joseph Widwer (Patent P-16-56), all Pennsylvania State Archives.

<sup>14</sup>1782 *Tax Rates*, Letterkenny Township, Cumberland County, microfilm no. 1402, 245, "Joseph Witwer," Pennsylvania State Archives.



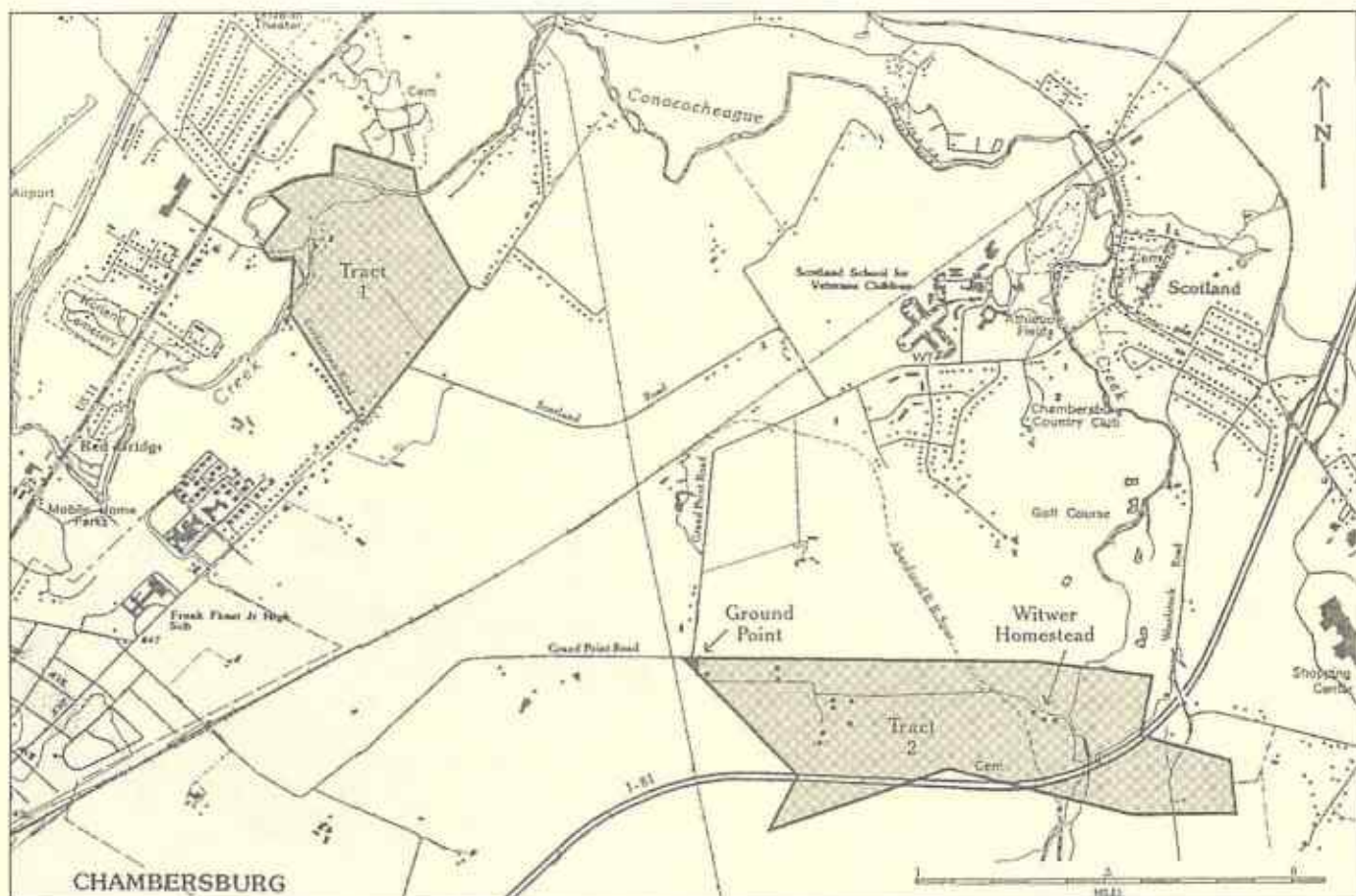


Fig. 1. Joseph Witwer acquired two tracts in Cumberland County, later Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Tract 1 of 130 acres, 99 perches "Message," was purchased prior to 1775 and sold before 1782. Tract 2—a 237-acre farm, Widwerton—included a Conococheague ford and was purchased in 1782. Portions of tract 2 remained in Witwer family ownership until 1899.

among the families. Another near neighbor was Albert Torrance, who had sold part of his patent to McIlroy.<sup>20</sup> Joseph "Whitmore," Albert Torrance, George McIlroy, George Eby and his sons—Christian, Samuel (owner of a sawmill), and David (who owned a gristmill)—are all

<sup>19</sup>Deed I-422, Cumberland County Archives. Richard Woods, for himself and as executor of the estate of his brother, John, dated Nov. 2, 1790, conveyed 127 acres, 20 perches, along the Conodoguinet Creek in West Pennsboro Twp., Cumberland Co., to "Joseph Whitner." The land was sold in 1805 by Joseph Widwer and his wife, Christina, to Jacob Lehman (Deed Q-1-199, dated Apr. 15, 1805, Cumberland County Archives). Thanks to Daniel Lehman for providing this information. In the 1798 Direct Tax "Joseph Whitmore" is listed as the owner of 123 acres in West Pennsboro Twp., but the occupant is David Alter. Wilbur J. McElwain, *United States Direct Tax of 1798, Tax Lists of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania* (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1994), 200.

<sup>20</sup>*Heads of Families of the First Census of the United States . . . 1790, Pennsylvania* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1908), Franklin County, Remainder of County, 120. The name directly below "Joseph Whitmore" is "George Eby." George Eby was the son of Christian Eby and Elizabeth Mayer and grandson of Theodorus Eby. He owned several tracts of land to the south of Joseph Witwer. See Warrants E-1 and E-2, both 1785, Franklin County Archives. Also, *Building on the Gospel Foundation*, 140, 141, where Joseph "Whitmer" is referenced.

<sup>21</sup>Will B-95, Franklin County Archives.

<sup>22</sup>Denise Witwer Laehr, "The Life and Legacy of Peter Eby of Warwick Township," *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage* 26 (January 2003): 9-17.

<sup>23</sup>Will C-126, Franklin County Archives.

<sup>24</sup>Deed 7-337, Franklin County Archives.

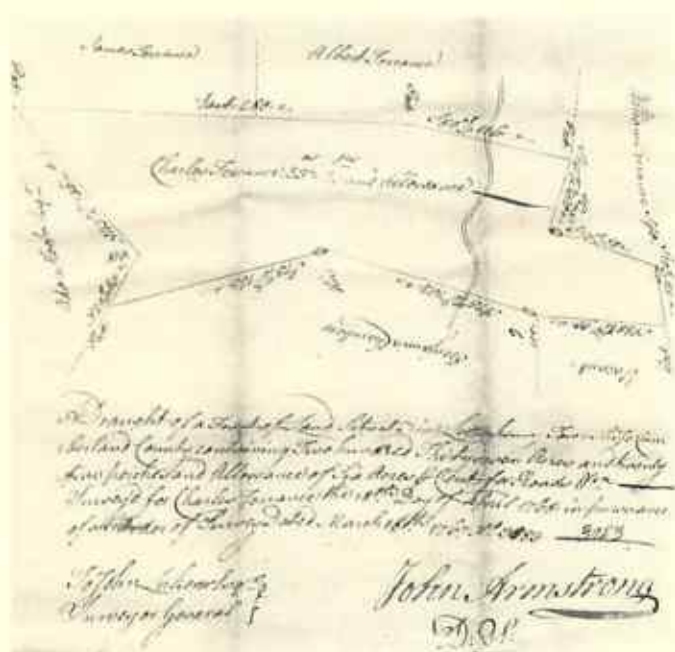


Fig. 2. Survey C-218-280, for Charles "Terrance," dated April 18, 1768, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. When Franklin County was carved from Cumberland County in 1784, it included Letterkenney Township. Greene Township was partitioned from Letterkenney Township in 1788. This area was patented to Joseph Widwer on August 18, 1789.



listed as neighbors in the 1798 Direct Tax.<sup>21</sup> In the 1798 tax Joseph Witwer's assets are described as one log house, 20 ft. x 16 ft.; one log barn, 66 ft. x 80 ft.; and one additional house valued at seventy dollars—all on 233 acres of land.

### Joseph Witwer's Family

Joseph and his wife, Christina, had at least five children:<sup>22</sup> daughters named Elizabeth, Susanna, Esther, and Ruth, none of whom ever married, and a son, Jonas. Jonas married a woman named Margaret and had four children, including three daughters and a son, named for his grandfather Joseph.

On April 28, 1810, Joseph and Christina Witwer transferred forty-three acres of land to their son, Jonas, in two separate parcels.<sup>23</sup> Thirty of these acres were located at the far western end of the tract, and the remaining thirteen acres were at the southeast corner. Shortly after these transfers Jonas's wife died in 1816, subsequent to childbirth.<sup>24</sup>

### Religious Connections

Although rooted in the Mennonite faith, Joseph and his son, Jonas, appear to have developed a relationship with the United Brethren Church and Bishop Christian Newcomer.<sup>25</sup> Jonas is identified as "Reverend" on his gravestone. An entry in Bishop Newcomer's journal, dated April 13, 1822, refers to Joseph Witwer:<sup>26</sup>

I visited old Joseph Witwer [sic] an Israelite indeed; conversed with him about religion, and about the poor traveling preachers in the Western country, who are traveling under the direction of the conference; read to him also several letters which I had had from the State of Ohio. This moved him to pity and compassion; he went to his desk and gave me eighty dollars, which he directed me to distribute among the traveling preachers, such as I thought most needy of assistance; may the Lord recompense him in this life and that which is to come.

On January 31, 1824, Bishop Newcomer lodged with Joseph Witwer. On the next day, Bishop Newcomer's seventy-fifth birthday, he preached at Jonas's house.<sup>27</sup> Further proof of this connection can be found in the obituary of Jonas's son, Joseph "Sr.," that states that the latter was a

member of the United Brethren Church "since his youth" and that his funeral was officiated by representatives of both the United Brethren and Mennonite faiths.<sup>28</sup>

Joseph Witwer's generosity is also demonstrated by his donation in 1809 of a small tract of land at the westernmost tip of his property for the construction of a school.<sup>29</sup> Joseph and Christina specified that the donated land should be called "Ground Point" since it was, in fact, a point of land. Over the years the name has been altered to "Grand Point" and applied to a road. Figure 1 indicates the location of "Ground Point."

### Joseph Witwer's Estate

Christina Witwer died on October 18, 1823, at seventy-five years of age.<sup>30</sup> Joseph survived his wife by a year. Despite having witnessed many wills, he died intestate on



Fig. 4. A view from the west bank of the Conococheague Creek near the location of the Witwer cabins. Note the ford and path on the opposite side of the creek.



Fig. 3. Joseph Witwer's tract 2, plotted on the 1868 *Atlas of Franklin County, Pennsylvania*, showing Joseph's schoolhouse gift ("S.H."), location of grandson Joseph Witwer Senior's residence, and that of "J. Witwer," probably great-grandson Joseph Heater Witwer.

<sup>21</sup>U.S. Direct Tax of 1798; Tax Lists for the State of Pennsylvania (6th Direct Tax Division, 4th Assessment District, Franklin County), microfilm no. 18, frames 260, 265, and 2130, Pennsylvania State Archives.

<sup>22</sup>See n. 16. The 1790 census indicates that there may have been one additional daughter: "Joseph Whitmore," 1 male 16 or over, 1 male less than 16, 6 females.

<sup>23</sup>Deed 9-321, Franklin County Archives. Joseph Witwer and Christina, his wife, Greene Twp., Franklin Co., to Jonas Witwer, dated Apr. 28, 1810, for 13 acres and 74 perches of Widwerton. Deed 9-322, same parties and dates, for 30 additional acres.

<sup>24</sup>Daughter Leah was born May 28, 1816, and her mother, Margaret, died three days later on May 31, according to stones in the Witwer Farm Graveyard. Leah (Witwer) Frey Huber Hassler is identified as the "youngest daughter of Rev. Jonas Witwer" on her gravestone.

<sup>25</sup>Christian Newcomer, *The Life and Journal of the Rev'd. Christian Newcomer, Late Bishop of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ*, trans. by John Hildt (1834; reprint, Evansville, Ind.: Whipporwill Publications, [1984]), 193, 280, 284. Bishop Newcomer was born into a Mennonite family in Lancaster County but left the county and the church to become an itinerant United Brethren in Christ preacher along the Pennsylvania and Maryland border as well as in the valleys of central Pennsylvania. Although the translator consistently wrote "Witmer," it is clear from the location in his travels that Rev. Newcomer was visiting Joseph Witwer and his son, Jonas.

<sup>26</sup>Ibid., 280.

<sup>27</sup>Ibid., 293.

<sup>28</sup>People's Register, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, Friday, May 7, 1886, 3, Joseph Witwer obituary.

<sup>29</sup>Deed 22-571, Franklin County Archives. Joseph and "Christiana" Witwer to John Frey, John Hare, and John Lehman, "trustees nominated and appointed by sundry inhabitants of (Greene) township," one-half acre of land for \$1.

<sup>30</sup>See n. 2.



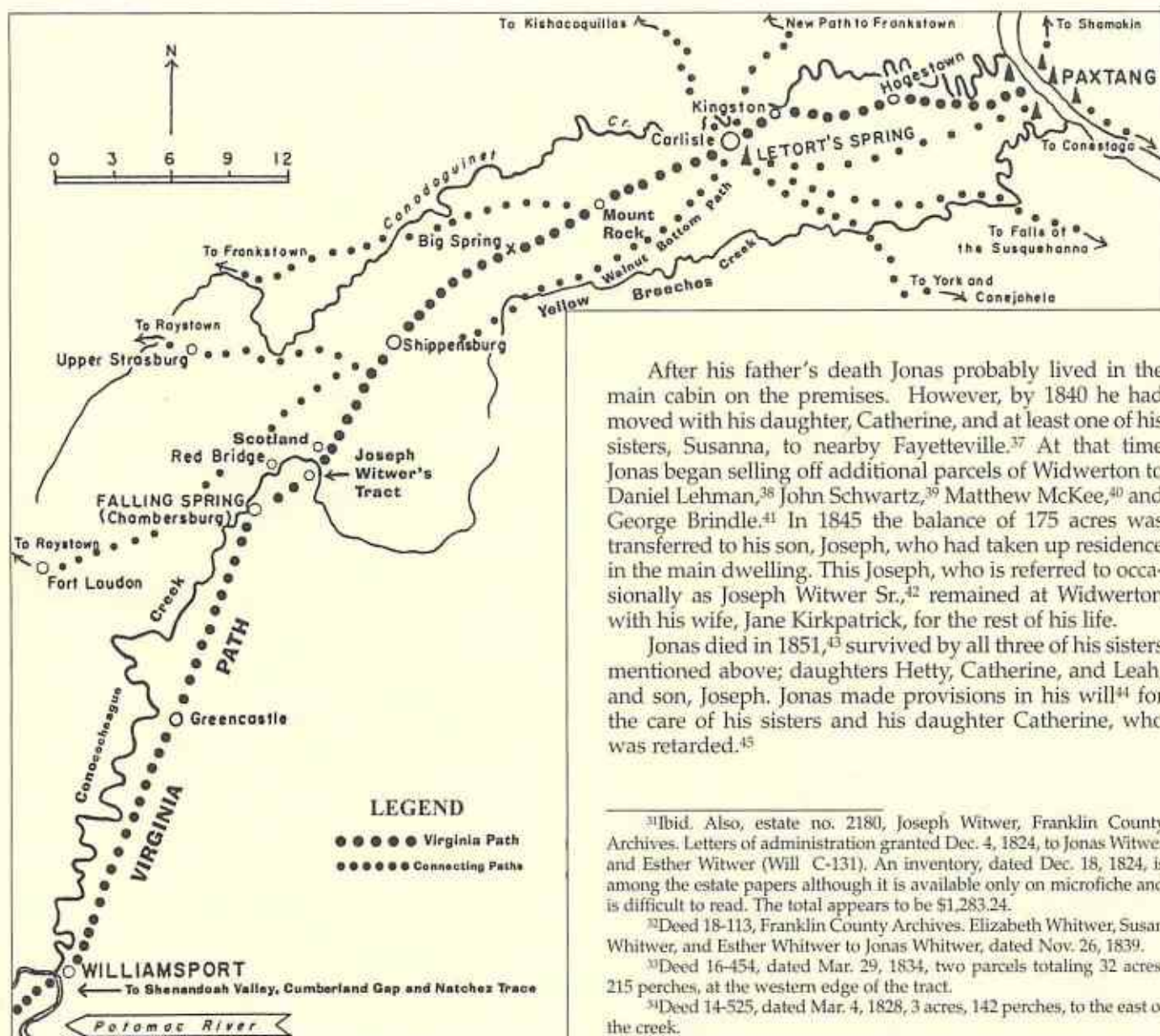


Fig. 5. Map of Indian paths of the Cumberland Valley showing the location of Joseph Witwer's 237-acre tract astride the Virginia Path that led from Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to Winchester, Virginia, and west to Kentucky

November 20, 1824,<sup>31</sup> owning 173 acres straddling the Conococheague Creek. His land had been improved with two log dwellings and other property.<sup>32</sup>

After Joseph's death Jonas, Elizabeth, Susanna, and Esther sold off many parcels of land ranging in size from less than an acre to twenty-nine acres. These parcels were all on either the western edge of the property or to the east of the creek. The various buyers included Daniel Lehman,<sup>33</sup> Daniel Spots,<sup>34</sup> and John Schwartz.<sup>35</sup>

Finally, in 1839, the daughters deeded their one-fourth interests in Widwerton to Jonas in exchange for \$600; the right to remain on the property in one of the dwelling houses for their natural lives; and the provision of bread, meat, firewood, and pasture. Furthermore, Jonas agreed not to sell the property while they lived.<sup>36</sup>

After his father's death Jonas probably lived in the main cabin on the premises. However, by 1840 he had moved with his daughter, Catherine, and at least one of his sisters, Susanna, to nearby Fayetteville.<sup>37</sup> At that time Jonas began selling off additional parcels of Widwerton to Daniel Lehman,<sup>38</sup> John Schwartz,<sup>39</sup> Matthew McKee,<sup>40</sup> and George Brindle.<sup>41</sup> In 1845 the balance of 175 acres was transferred to his son, Joseph, who had taken up residence in the main dwelling. This Joseph, who is referred to occasionally as Joseph Witwer Sr.,<sup>42</sup> remained at Widwerton with his wife, Jane Kirkpatrick, for the rest of his life.

Jonas died in 1851,<sup>43</sup> survived by all three of his sisters mentioned above; daughters Hetty, Catherine, and Leah; and son, Joseph. Jonas made provisions in his will<sup>44</sup> for the care of his sisters and his daughter Catherine, who was retarded.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>31</sup>Ibid. Also, estate no. 2180, Joseph Witwer, Franklin County Archives. Letters of administration granted Dec. 4, 1824, to Jonas Witwer and Esther Witwer (Will C-131). An inventory, dated Dec. 18, 1824, is among the estate papers although it is available only on microfiche and is difficult to read. The total appears to be \$1,283.24.

<sup>32</sup>Deed 18-113, Franklin County Archives. Elizabeth Whitwer, Susan Whitwer, and Esther Whitwer to Jonas Whitwer, dated Nov. 26, 1839.

<sup>33</sup>Deed 16-454, dated Mar. 29, 1834, two parcels totaling 32 acres, 215 perches, at the western edge of the tract.

<sup>34</sup>Deed 14-525, dated Mar. 4, 1828, 3 acres, 142 perches, to the east of the creek.

<sup>35</sup>Deed 14-93, dated June 20, 1826, 162½ perches of land; Deed 17-515, dated Nov. 28, 1838, 11 acres.

<sup>36</sup>See n. 32.

<sup>37</sup>1840 Census, Franklin County, 183, Fayetteville, "James Whitwer"; also, numerous deeds from the time period give Jonas's residence as Fayetteville. See nn. 39-41. Fayetteville is just five miles south-east of Widwerton.

<sup>38</sup>Deed 18-149, dated Mar. 28, 1840, 8 acres, 113 perches.

<sup>39</sup>Deed 203-156, dated May 29, 1843, 1 acre.

<sup>40</sup>Deed 20-121, dated Mar. 20, 1844, 6 acres, 47 perches.

<sup>41</sup>Deed 104-559, dated Apr. 1, 1844, 9 acres, 135 perches, to the east of the creek, marked by a large pond now in possession of the Chambersburg Golf Club.

<sup>42</sup>Joseph, son of Jonas Witwer, is referred to as Joseph Witwer Sr. in his will (estate no. 12465, Joseph Witwer Sr., Will K-349, dated Nov. 11, 1883, filed for probate May 15, 1886) and in his obituary (see n. 28). He is called Joseph W. Witwer in the 1880 Census (Green Village District, Franklin County, ED 95, 168C, visit 106, "Joseph W. Witwer").

<sup>43</sup>See n. 2.

<sup>44</sup>Estate no. 5332, Jonas Witwer, Franklin County Archives (Will E-339, dated Sept. 1, 1851, filed for probate on Sept. 27, 1851).

<sup>45</sup>Leah's husband, Philip Frey, was to care for Jonas's daughter, Catherine, and Jonas's sisters Susanna and Elizabeth. Susanna Witwer was still living with Leah in 1860 even though Philip Frey was deceased and Leah was remarried to John Huber (1860 Census, Greene Township, Franklin County, 254, visit 1939, "John Huber"). Catherine was living with Hetty (Witwer) Hendricks in 1860 (1860 Census, Guilford Township, Franklin County, 602, visit 517, "John Hendricks").



## Widwerton

The 1868 atlas of Franklin County<sup>46</sup> noted the Witwer property on the map of Greene Township. The log cabins stood along the creek, and the site was marked as "Jos. Witwer." This refers to Joseph Witwer Sr. The notation "J. Witwer" farther to the west may refer to Joseph Sr.'s son, Joseph Heater Witwer, who with his wife, Margaret Lego, had established his own household by that time. A section of the map, with Widwerton superimposed, is included as figure 3.

Figure 3 shows that access to the home site was from Woodstock Road by a path and ford that crossed the creek just to the north of the cabins. This path continued past the dwellings and toward the west. It is still unimproved except for portions lying within the Scot-Greene development, described below.

In all of Jonas's land transactions summarized above, he was careful to retain the small strip of land connecting the ford to Woodstock Road. The remainder of the land to the east of the creek was sold. Today a sewer line marks the location of the ford and road, which appear in figure 4.

The existence of the ford and path, combined with the general inaccessibility of the home site, has led the authors to speculate that Joseph settled on the Virginia Path. This Indian trail and settlers' road—also known as the Virginia Road, the Potomac Road, and the Great Trail—ran from Harrisburg (Paxtang) to Winchester, Virginia, through



Fig. 6. The Witwer farmstead site as seen from the north. The house faced the Conococheague Creek. These structures were demolished in the mid-1990s.



Fig. 7. A view of the farmhouse from the south. The rear portion had a log cabin at its core.

Carlisle (Letort's Spring), Shippensburg, Scotland, and Chambersburg.<sup>47</sup> In his study of Pennsylvania Indian paths Paul A. W. Wallace depicted the trail as shown in figure 5. Note the location of Widwerton relative to the path.

Also, Bishop Christian Newcomer frequently traveled this path and stayed at least three times with Joseph Witwer. Like his father and grandfather, who chose to settle along the Paxtang Road, Joseph Witwer probably chose a site along a major trail. Widwerton remained largely intact for many years. By the 1890s it still consisted of approximately 140 acres, having been reduced somewhat by an additional sale to George Brindle<sup>48</sup> and a transfer to Joseph Sr.'s son, Jonas M. Witwer.<sup>49</sup>

After the death of Joseph Witwer Sr. the probate court determined that Widwerton could not be divided into four viable parcels to accommodate all of the heirs. Instead, it was divided into two parts. Since no heir was willing to take either parcel at the stated value, they were both sold to John D. Wingert in 1899.<sup>50</sup> Thus, Widwerton remained in Witwer hands long after all of the Earl Township property had been sold.<sup>51</sup>

The United States Geological Survey map that forms the basis for figure 1 showed three structures still existing on the property in 1990.<sup>52</sup> These structures are identified as "Witwer Homestead."

In 1994 Scot-Greene, Inc., acquired the property for use as a housing development.<sup>53</sup> According to Terry Wagner, one of the principals of Scot-Greene, Inc., the main structure was a house that contained a log cabin as its core. At some point the log cabin had been heavily damaged by fire. Other buildings included a barn and shed. After an environmental review of the site, the structures were demolished. Photographs of the site and house taken before demolition are included as figures 6 and 7.

## The Witwer Graveyard

Joseph and Christina; daughters Elizabeth, Susanna, Esther, and Ruth; son Jonas and his wife Margaret; and grandson, Joseph, and his wife, Jane, were all buried on the family farm in a graveyard plot that lies north of Interstate 81 just south of exit 20 at Scotland. There is no ready access to the graveyard. Nonetheless, it is well

<sup>46</sup>D. G. Beers, ed., *Atlas of Franklin County, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: Pomeroy & Beers, 1868), 13.

<sup>47</sup>Paul A. W. Wallace, *Indian Paths of Pennsylvania* (Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1998), 177.

<sup>48</sup>Deed 104-558, Joseph and Jane Witwer to George Brindle, dated Mar. 15, 1851, Franklin County Archives.

<sup>49</sup>Deed 72-214, Joseph and Jane Witwer to "Jones" Witwer, Mar. 31, 1884, 23 acres on the western edge of their property, adjacent to Daniel Lehman.

<sup>50</sup>Deed 203-143, Franklin County Archives.

<sup>51</sup>Denise Witwer Lahr and Thomas Witwer Richards, "The Witwer Family of Earl Township: Part Two, Michael Witwer," *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage* 27 (July 2004): 18-27. By 1834 the Witwer property in Earl Township, Lancaster County, had passed out of family hands.

<sup>52</sup>U.S. Geological Survey Map, 7.5 minute series, 1/24,000, Scotland, Pa.

<sup>53</sup>Deed 1215-521, Franklin County Archives, Lonny A. Rotz et al., to Scot-Greene, Inc., dated Apr. 26, 1994.

<sup>54</sup>See n. 2.

<sup>55</sup>See nn. 2 and 10.

<sup>56</sup>See n. 2.

<sup>57</sup>Ibid.

<sup>58</sup>Robert F. Cell, ed., *1843 Tax Records, Franklin County, Pennsylvania* (Edinburg, Texas: University of Texas, 1991), 189.





Fig. 8. The Witwer Farm Graveyard as viewed from Interstate 81. In 1985 Troop 244 of the Scotland School for Veterans' Children improved the site as an Eagle Scout project. In 1997 a second Eagle project by Jason Hartman of Troop 128 made additional improvements and erected the current flagpole. Scot-Greene development lies in the background.

tended and maintained by Boy Scout Troop no. 128 of First Lutheran Church, Chambersburg, under the leadership of scoutmaster Paul Holbrook. The graveyard, marked by a flagpole, appears in figure 8.

## Genealogy of Joseph Witwer's Descendants

W Hans Wittwer

W1 Michael Witwer

W12 Joseph Witwer, May 21, 1744 (Earl Twp., Lancaster Co.)-Nov. 20, 1824;<sup>54</sup> bu. Witwer Farm Graveyard, Greene Twp., Franklin Co., Pa.; farmer<sup>55</sup>  
m. ca. 1767 Christina, ca. 1748-Oct. 18, 1823;<sup>56</sup> bu. Witwer Farm Graveyard

W121 Elizabeth Witwer, May 22, 1768-Aug. 31, 1858;<sup>57</sup> bu. Witwer Farm Graveyard; never married. In 1844 Elizabeth maintained a separate house and lot on the farm.<sup>58</sup> She is also listed separately in the 1850 census.<sup>59</sup>

W122 Susanna Witwer, July 21, 1769-Aug. 15, 1863;<sup>60</sup> bu. Witwer Farm Graveyard; never married. Susanna lived with her niece, Leah, from 1850 or earlier until her death.<sup>61</sup>

W123 Esther Witwer, Aug. 2, 1772-Oct. 14, 1851;<sup>62</sup> bu. Witwer Farm Graveyard; never married. Esther died just one month after her brother, Jonas. In 1850 she was living with William and Elizabeth Smith and family, immediately adjacent to her sister Elizabeth.<sup>63</sup>

W124 Ruth Witwer, Nov. 9, 1773-July 23, 1822;<sup>64</sup> bu. Witwer Farm Graveyard; never married

W125 Jonas Witwer, May 22, 1776-Sept. 22, 1851;<sup>65</sup> bu. Witwer Farm Graveyard; farmer, carpenter,<sup>66</sup> reverend<sup>67</sup>

m. Margaret, Sept. 25, 1784-May 31, 1816;<sup>68</sup> bu. Witwer Farm Graveyard

W1251 Hetty Witwer, ca. 1808<sup>69</sup>-aft. 1880. Hetty's date of death and burial site are unknown. She is not listed with the rest of her family in Bethel Cemetery.

m. John Hendricks;<sup>70</sup> b. ca. 1800<sup>71</sup>-Apr. 4, 1881 (Iowa);<sup>72</sup> bu. Bethel Cem., Washington Co., Iowa; farmer; "Rev." on gravestone. In his death notice he is described as a "U.B. preacher in the mountainous districts of Pa."<sup>73</sup> Sometime after 1860 John and Hetty Hendricks moved from Guilford Twp., Franklin Co., Pa., to Dutch Creek Twp., Washington Co., Iowa.<sup>74</sup>

W1251.1 John W. Hendricks, June 19, 1838 (Pa.)<sup>75</sup>-June 5, 1925 (Iowa);<sup>76</sup> bu. Bethel Cem.; farmer; private, 165 Pa. Inf.; drafted Nov. 4, 1862, discharged July 28, 1863<sup>77</sup>

m. Isabella Coffman, b. ca. 1836 (Pa.)<sup>78</sup>-Aug. 17, 1925 (Iowa);<sup>79</sup> bu. Bethel Cem. By 1867, when Wesley was born, John and Isabella had moved to Dutch Creek Twp., Washington Co., Iowa.

W1251.11 Mary A. Hendricks, July 11, 1862 (Pa.)-Feb. 18, 1897 (Iowa); bu. Bethel Cem.<sup>80</sup>

m. Harrison Perry Deal, 1843 (Ohio)-1924 (Iowa);<sup>81</sup> bu. White Oak Cem., Washington Co., Iowa; farmer and veterinarian; res. Dutch Creek Twp.<sup>82</sup>

W1251.111 Henry Perry Deal,<sup>83</sup> b. Feb. 27, 1892

W1251.12 Wesley Hendricks, Oct. 8, 1867-Mar. 20, 1935; farmer; lifelong resident of Dutch Creek Twp.<sup>84</sup>

m. June 22, 1915, Josephine Arilla (Nelson) Brown, widow of E. Alonzo Brown,

<sup>59</sup>1850 Census, Greene Township, Franklin County, 189, visit 199, "Elizabeth Witwer."

<sup>60</sup>See n. 2. Birth date calculated from age on gravestone: 94 years, 24 days.

<sup>61</sup>1850 Census, Greene Township, Franklin County, 177, visit 15, "Philip Frey."

<sup>62</sup>See n. 2.

<sup>63</sup>1850 Census, Greene Township, Franklin County, 188, visit 198, "William Smith." Also, n. 59.

<sup>64</sup>See n. 2.

<sup>65</sup>Ibid.

<sup>66</sup>See n. 61.

<sup>67</sup>See n. 2.

<sup>68</sup>Ibid.

<sup>69</sup>1850 Census, Guilford Township, Franklin County, 124, visit 508, "John Handricks"; 1860 Census, Guilford Township, Franklin County, 602, visit 517, "John Hendricks."

<sup>70</sup>See n. 44.

<sup>71</sup>See n. 2.

<sup>72</sup>Bethel Cemetery inventory on file at Washington County (Iowa) Historical Society.

<sup>73</sup>Death notice, *The Keota Eagle*, Washington County, Iowa, April 23, 1881, 3.

<sup>74</sup>1880 Census, Dutch Creek Township, Washington County, Iowa, ED 142, 175B, visit 159, "John Hendricks." In this census John Hendricks is described as disabled.

<sup>75</sup>Obituary, *Brighton Enterprise*, Washington County, Iowa, Thursday, June 11, 1925, 1, "John W. Hendricks died Friday."

<sup>76</sup>Ibid. Also, Washington County (Iowa) Death Index, 4-77.

<sup>77</sup>Samuel P. Bates, *History of Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-1865*, vol. 8 (Harrisburg: 1871), 1087.

<sup>78</sup>1870 Census, Dutch Creek Township, Washington County, Iowa, 62, visit 45, "John Hendricks"; 1880 Census, Grant Township, Union County, Iowa, ED 258, 8, visit 66, "John Hendricks."

<sup>79</sup>See n. 72; obituary, *Brighton Enterprise*, Washington County, Iowa, Thursday, Aug. 20, 1925, 1, "Mrs. J. W. Hendricks dies last Monday"; Washington County (Iowa) Death Index, 4-77.

<sup>80</sup>See n. 72.

<sup>81</sup>Http://www.rootsweb.com/~iawashin/cemwhoak.htm.

<sup>82</sup>1910 Census, Dutch Creek Township, Washington County, Iowa, ED 123, 53A, visit 60, "Perry H. Deal."

<sup>83</sup>Ibid. Also, obituary of Wesley Hendricks, *The Evening Journal*, Washington County, Iowa, March 26, 1935.

<sup>84</sup>Obituary of Wesley Hendricks (see n. 83); Washington County (Iowa) Death Index, 5-104.



Sept. 27, 1861 (Nashville, Tenn.)-  
Mar. 26, 1945 (Brighton, Iowa);<sup>85</sup> no  
children

W1251.2 William Hendricks, Oct. 30, 1839 (Pa.)-  
Nov. 4, 1916 (Iowa); bu. Brighton Cem.,  
Washington Co., Iowa; farmer; res.  
Dutch Creek Twp., Washington Co., Iowa<sup>86</sup>  
m.(1) July 19, 1897, Maggie Haw<sup>87</sup>  
m.(2) Mar. 7, 1901, Mary Elizabeth (Feather-  
ston) Jones, widow;<sup>88</sup> no children

W1251.3 Eliza Hendricks, b. ca. 1843<sup>89</sup>

W1251.4 Catherine Hendricks, b. ca. 1845<sup>90</sup>

W1251.5 Amanda Hendricks, b. ca. 1848<sup>91</sup>

W1252 Joseph Witwer Sr., Dec. 19, 1808-May 1, 1886;<sup>92</sup>  
bu. Witwer Farm Graveyard; farmer. Joseph  
Witwer Sr. lived on the homestead that was  
transferred to him in 1845.<sup>93</sup> On Septem-  
ber 11, 1868, Joseph Witwer filed a claim for  
damages suffered on June 27, 1863, when the  
Confederate Army passed through on its way  
to the Battle of Gettysburg. His losses totaled  
\$982.50 and included 6 horses, 9 cattle, 500  
pounds of pork, and 100 chickens.<sup>94</sup>

Epitaph:

*His toils are just, his work is done  
And he is fully blest  
He fought the fight, the victory won  
and entered into rest.*

m. Jane Kirkpatrick, Mar. 14, 1816 (Ireland)-Oct. 1,  
1898;<sup>95</sup> dau. John Kirkpatrick and Margaret  
Martin; bu. Witwer Farm Graveyard

W1252.1 Jemima Witwer, Mar. 5, 1833-Feb. 22, 1861;<sup>96</sup>  
bu. Witwer Farm Graveyard. Jemima died  
within a month of giving birth to her  
youngest daughter, Emma. Gravestone  
inscription and epitaph:

*In Memory of Jemima, Consort of John W.  
Heintzelman,*

*Oldest daughter of Joseph and Jane Witwer.  
Behold ye children passing by  
As you are now so once was I  
As I am now so must you be  
Prepare for death and follow me.*

m. Dec. 1, 1853;<sup>97</sup> John W. Heintzelman,<sup>98</sup>  
1829-Dec. 15/19, 1900;<sup>99</sup> s. John Heintzel-  
man and Magdalena Wenger; bu. New  
Guilford Brethren in Christ Cem., Guil-  
ford Twp., Franklin Co., Pa. After  
Jemima's death John Heintzelman  
married Nancy Stouffer, 1837-1914.<sup>100</sup>

W1252.11 Amanda E. Heintzelman, Nov. 21, 1854-  
July 17, 1937; bu. Browns Mill Grave-  
yard, Antrim Twp., Franklin Co., Pa.<sup>101</sup>  
m. John L. Etter, Feb. 6, 1859-Oct. 21, 1900;  
bu. Browns Mill Graveyard; resided in  
Hamilton Twp.<sup>102</sup>

W1252.12 Alfred T. Heintzelman, b. ca. 1856; moved  
to Ohio<sup>103</sup>

W1252.13 Emma J. C. Heintzelman, Jan. 1861-1934;  
bu. Browns Mill Graveyard.<sup>104</sup> After her  
mother's death Emma resided with her  
grandparents, Joseph and Jane Witwer.<sup>105</sup>

<sup>85</sup>Obituary, *The Evening Journal*, March 27, 1945, "Mrs. Hendricks,  
85, of Brighton, is dead"; Washington County Death Index, 6-195.

<sup>86</sup>See nn. 69, 72, and 74. Also, Works Progress Administration  
Cemetery List, Washington County, Iowa; 1900 Census, Dutch Creek  
Township, Washington County, ED 111, 50A, visit 137, "William  
Hendricks."

<sup>87</sup>Marriage applications, Washington County, Iowa @  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~lawashin/wm1897.htm>.

<sup>88</sup>Marriages, 1839-1992, Washington County, Iowa, on file with the  
Washington County (Iowa) Historical Society.

<sup>89</sup>1850 Census, Guilford Township, Franklin County, 124, visit 508,  
"John Handricks."

<sup>90</sup>Ibid.

<sup>91</sup>Ibid.

<sup>92</sup>See n. 2.

<sup>93</sup>Deed 23-174, Franklin County Archives.

<sup>94</sup>Damage Claim Applications, 1871-1879, RG2, microfilm no. 6174,  
"Joseph Witwer," Pennsylvania State Archives.

<sup>95</sup>1870 Census, Greene Township, Franklin County, 187B and 188A,  
visit 412, "Joseph Witwer"; 1880 Census, Green Village District, Franklin  
County, ED 95, 168C, visit 106, "Joseph W. Witwer."

<sup>96</sup>See n. 2.

<sup>97</sup>Card file, Kittichtinny Historical Society.

<sup>98</sup>1860 Census, Guilford Township, Franklin County, 379, visit 823,  
"John Heintzelman."

<sup>99</sup>John F. W. Pfeuger, ed., *Tombstone Inscriptions of Franklin County  
Pennsylvania*, vol. 12, Guilford Township, New Guilford Brethren in  
Christ Church Cemetery (Chambersburg: Petticoat Press, 1986), 215,  
states that date of death was December 19. The obituary for John  
Heintzelman (*Public Opinion*, Chambersburg, Pa., December 21, 1900)  
states that the date of death was December 15 and the age was 71 years,  
9 months, 5 days.

<sup>100</sup>Ibid.

<sup>101</sup>Obituary for John Heintzelman, *Public Opinion*, Chambersburg,  
Pa., December 21, 1900; Will K-349 of Joseph Witwer Sr.; John F. W.  
Pfeuger, ed., *Tombstone Inscriptions of Franklin County Pennsylvania*, vol.  
6, Antrim Township, Browns Mill Graveyard (Chambersburg: Petticoat  
Press, 1986), 73.

<sup>102</sup>Ibid.

<sup>103</sup>Ibid.

<sup>104</sup>Ibid.

<sup>105</sup>See n. 95.

<sup>106</sup>Wedding notice, Miss Emma J. C. Heintzelman and Harmon "K."  
Oliver, *People's Register*, Chambersburg, Pa., December 23, 1881. Also,  
card file, Kittichtinny Historical Society.

<sup>107</sup>1900 Census, Antrim Township, Franklin County, ED 31, District 2,  
13B, visit 87, "Herman C. Oliver"; 1910 Census, Antrim Township, Franklin  
County, ED 1, District 2, 194, visit 51, "Harmon C. Oliver"; also, n. 101.

<sup>108</sup>Ibid.; also, Mary Ellen Strang conversation with author,  
Chambersburg, Pa., Oct. 11, 2004.

<sup>109</sup>Ibid.

<sup>110</sup>Ibid.

<sup>111</sup>Ibid.

<sup>112</sup>Ibid.

<sup>113</sup>Ibid.

<sup>114</sup>Ibid.

<sup>115</sup>Ibid.

<sup>116</sup>Ibid.

<sup>117</sup>1910 Census, Antrim Twp., Franklin County, ED 1, District 2, 194,  
visit 51, "Harmon C. Oliver."

<sup>118</sup>See n. 2.

<sup>119</sup>Ibid.

<sup>120</sup>Oakdale Cemetery transcription @ [www.celticcousins.net/scott/oakdale10.htm](http://www.celticcousins.net/scott/oakdale10.htm); Death Certificate no. 82-09054, State of Iowa, "Joseph  
Heater Witwer."

<sup>121</sup>1870 Census, Greene Township, Franklin County, 187B, visit 411,  
"Joseph Witwer"; 1880 Census, Green Village, Franklin County, ED 95,  
169A, visit 125, "Joseph H. Witwer."

<sup>122</sup>Samuel P. Bates, *History of Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-1865*, vol.  
10 (Harrisburg: 1871), 1215.

<sup>123</sup>*Valley Spirit*, Chambersburg, Pa., October 1, 1862, 8.

<sup>124</sup>1900 Census, Davenport, Scott County, Iowa, ED 135, 82B, visit  
432, "Joseph H. Witwer."

<sup>125</sup>Oakdale Cemetery transcription @ [www.celticcousins.net/scott/oakdale10.htm](http://www.celticcousins.net/scott/oakdale10.htm).

<sup>126</sup>Deed 83-39, Franklin County Archives. Joseph H. Witwer and  
Margaret J. Witwer, his wife, to Dr. David McClay, a 1/4 interest in 160  
acres called the "Joseph Witwer farm," dated Feb. 6, 1889.

<sup>127</sup>See n. 124. Also, 1910 Census, Davenport, Scott County, Iowa, ED  
144, 141A, visit 509, 1939 Rock Island St., "Joseph H. Witwer"; 1920  
Census, Davenport, ED 158, 17B, visit 312, 715 W. 17th St., "Wm. G.  
Turner"; obituary, "Joseph Heater Witwer," *The Davenport Democrat and*



m. Nov. 20, 1881, by Rev. John Fohl, Harmon C. Oliver,<sup>106</sup> 1861-1947; bu. Browns Mill Graveyard; resided Greencastle, Antrim Twp., Franklin Co., Pa.<sup>107</sup>

W1252.131 Bruce Oliver, b. Nov. 1883; moved to Iowa<sup>108</sup>

W1252.132 Harvey Oliver, b. Sept. 1885<sup>109</sup>

W1252.133 Alcesta Oliver, Dec. 1886-1955; bu. Browns Mill Graveyard<sup>110</sup>

W1252.134 Bertha Oliver, b. July 1888<sup>111</sup>

W1252.135 Bessie Jane Oliver, Jan. 1890-1978; bu. Browns Mill Graveyard<sup>112</sup>

W1252.136 Margie Oliver, b. Aug. 1891<sup>113</sup>

W1252.137 Walter H. Oliver, Aug. 12, 1889-May 16, 1980; bu. Browns Mill Graveyard<sup>114</sup>

m. Carrie E., Aug. 1, 1889-June 22, 1972; bu. Browns Mill Graveyard

W1252.138 Robert I. Oliver, Dec. 1895-1976; bu. Browns Mill Graveyard<sup>115</sup>

m. Anna A. Smith, b. ca. 1894; bu. Browns Mill Graveyard

W1252.139 Herbert Oliver, b. Sept. 1897<sup>116</sup>

W1252.13a Joshua Oliver, b. ca. 1903<sup>117</sup>

W1252.2 Margaret Witwer, Feb. 23, 1835-Aug. 25, 1837;<sup>118</sup> d.y.; bu. Witwer Farm Graveyard. Gravestone inscription: *Daughter of Joseph and Jane Witwer*

W1252.3 Leah Witwer, Feb. 1837-Sept. 6, 1837;<sup>119</sup> inf.; bu. Witwer Farm Graveyard. Gravestone inscription: *Daughter of Joseph and Jane*

Witwer. Margaret and Leah Witwer died within two weeks of each other.

W1252.4 Joseph Heater Witwer, Oct. 30, 1839-June 9, 1921;<sup>120</sup> farmer.<sup>121</sup> enlisted in Criswell's Independent Infantry Regiment Pa. on Sept. 15, 1862, and mustered out Oct. 1, 1862.<sup>122</sup> This unit was part of the militia called up by Gov. Curtin on Sept. 10, 1862, when the Confederate Army invaded Maryland. After the Battle of Antietam, the unit was disbanded.

m. Sept. 11, 1862 (just prior to enlisting),<sup>123</sup> Margaret Jane Lego, daughter of Charles W. and Jane Lego, Oct. 1841<sup>124</sup>-1928.<sup>125</sup> By 1889 Joseph H. Witwer had financial difficulties "owing to sundry losses and misfortunes" and sold his one-fourth interest in Widwerton to Dr. David McClay, who paid Joseph's debts.<sup>126</sup> Sometime after March 12, 1891, Joseph and his family left Pennsylvania. By 1898 they were in Davenport, Iowa, where they remained for the rest of their lives and where Joseph worked as a gardener in Central Park, now known as the Vander Veer Botanical Center and Park.<sup>127</sup>

W1252.41 William D. Witwer, June 5, 1864 (Pa.)-May 15, 1952 (Minn.);<sup>128</sup> bu. Summit Cem., Morris, Minn.<sup>129</sup> William is listed in census and other records as a farmer,<sup>130</sup> painter,<sup>131</sup> furniture finisher,<sup>132</sup> carpenter,<sup>133</sup> and ultimately, a chiropractor.<sup>134</sup> He was in Indiana in 1893, when he married; Illinois in 1894, when daughter Hazel was born; and in Iowa by 1898, when daughter Zelma was born. By 1915 he had settled in Morris, Minnesota, and had a chiropractic office.

m. Apr. 5, 1893, in New Castle, Henry Co., Ind., Clara A. Paddock,<sup>135</sup> b. Nov. 1867 (Ind.)<sup>136</sup>

W1252.411 Hazel O. Witwer, Mar. 1894 (Ill.)-Jan. 18, 1940<sup>137</sup>

m. ca. 1920 Edward Paul Kemper, b. ca. 1891 (Wisc.); resided Aberdeen, S. Dak.; credit mgr.<sup>138</sup>

W1252.4111 Paul W. Kemper, b. ca. 1921; S. Dak.<sup>139</sup>

W1252.4112 Margaret Kemper, b. ca. 1924; S. Dak.<sup>140</sup>

W1252.412 Zelma M. Witwer, Mar. 1898-1902; d.y.; bu. Oakdale Cem., Davenport, Iowa<sup>141</sup>

W1252.42 Ida Jennie Witwer, b. ca. 1867<sup>142</sup>

m. Mar. 12, 1891, at her parents' home in Franklin Co., Pa., William Gruber Turner,<sup>143</sup> b. ca. 1866 (Pa.);<sup>144</sup> carpenter; resided by 1900 in Davenport, Iowa, and by 1930 in Moapa, Clark Co., Nev.;<sup>145</sup> no ch.

W1252.43 Susan C. Witwer, b. ca. 1869<sup>146</sup>-bef. 1900<sup>147</sup>

W1252.44 Florence Lauretta Witwer, Mar. 11, 1871 (Pa.)-Feb. 10, 1951 (Rockford, Ill.); bu. Willwood Burial Park, Rockford, Ill.<sup>148</sup>

m. Sept. 26, 1895, in Davenport, Iowa, Fred M. Hanna,<sup>149</sup> July 28, 1872 (Ill.)-Nov. 17, 1952 (Rockford, Ill.);<sup>150</sup> bookkeeper;<sup>151</sup> machinist and draftsman at Rock Island Arsenal (Davenport)<sup>152</sup> and Barnes Drill Company (Rockford);<sup>153</sup> bu. Willwood Burial Park, Rockford, Ill. Florence and Fred resided in

Leader, June 9, 1921, 15.

<sup>120</sup>1900 Census, Davenport, 3d ward, ED 129, 222A, visit 390, 719 17th St., "Wm. D. Witwer"; Minnesota Historical Society database, Death Certificate no. 1952-MN-0161.

<sup>121</sup>Obituary, *The Morris Sun*, Morris, Minn., May 20, 1952, 1, "Dr. W. D. Witwer Died at His Home Thursday."

<sup>122</sup>Ibid.

<sup>123</sup>See nn. 128, 129; also, *The Davenport Times 20th Century Directory*, March 16, 1900 (<http://www.celticousins.net/scott/1900wdir.htm>).

<sup>124</sup>See n. 129.

<sup>125</sup>Ibid.; also 1910 Census, Davenport, 3d ward, ED 136, 216A, visit 206, 719 W. 17th St., "William Witwer."

<sup>126</sup>1920 Census, Morris, Stevens County, Minn., 2d ward, ED 171, 256B, visit 246, 104 W. 5th St., "William D. Witwer"; also, n. 129.

<sup>127</sup>Henry County (Indiana) County Clerk's Office, Index to Marriage Records, 1850-1920, CC-9-118; also, n. 129.

<sup>128</sup>See nn. 128, 133, and 134.

<sup>129</sup>See nn. 128, 129, and 133.

<sup>130</sup>1930 Census, Aberdeen, Brown County, S. Dak., 6th ward, ED 10, 186B, visit 116, 223 7th Ave., "Edward P. Kemper"; also, n. 129.

<sup>131</sup>Ibid.

<sup>132</sup>Ibid.

<sup>133</sup>See n. 125; also, [www.celticousins.net/scott/oakdale8.htm](http://www.celticousins.net/scott/oakdale8.htm).

<sup>134</sup>See n. 121.

<sup>135</sup>Marriage License Docket, 6-112, Clerk of the Courts, Franklin County Archives.

<sup>136</sup>1910 Census, Davenport, 3d ward, ED 136, 216A, visit 205, 715 W. 17th St., "William G. Turner"; 1920 census, Davenport, 3d ward, ED 158, visit 312, 715 W. 17th St., "William G. Turner."

<sup>137</sup>1930 Census, Moapa, Clark County, Nevada, ED 9, 135A, visit 10, "William G. Turner."

<sup>138</sup>See n. 121.

<sup>139</sup>See n. 124. Margaret is reported to have had seven children, with only three living in 1900.

<sup>140</sup>Obituary, *Davenport Democrat*, Monday, February 12, 1951, 9, "Rites in Rockford for Mrs. Hanna, 79, Former Resident."

<sup>141</sup>Ibid.

<sup>142</sup>Obituary, "Fred Hanna," *Davenport Democrat*, Wednesday, November 19, 1952, 12.

<sup>143</sup>1900 Census, Davenport, 5th ward, ED 135, 79B, visit 361, 1723 Rock Island St., "F. M. Hanna."



- Davenport until 1924, after which they moved to Rockford, Ill.
- W1252.441 **Raymond W. Hanna**, Aug. 15, 1897 (Iowa)-July 1974 (Ark.)<sup>154</sup>
- W1252.442 **Dorothy Mae Hanna**, Dec. 17, 1898 (Iowa)-May 1992 (Iowa);<sup>155</sup> graduate of Drake University (bachelor's degree, 1927, and master's degree, 1949); instructor in mathematics, Drake University<sup>156</sup>
- m. June 16, 1921, in Davenport, Iowa, Paul Streeper Helmick;<sup>157</sup> Dec. 11, 1893-Nov. 12, 1990;<sup>158</sup> professor of physics, Drake University, 1923-64. The "Paul and Dorothy Helmick Courtyard" landscaping project at Drake University was dedicated in 2003 with funding provided by their son, Robert H. Helmick.<sup>159</sup>
- W1252.4421 **Robert H. Helmick**, Mar. 5, 1937-Apr. 15, 2003; lawyer; graduate of Drake University (bachelor's degree, 1957, and law degree, 1960); head of United States Olympic Committee, 1985-91<sup>160</sup>
- W1252.45 **Mary C. Witwer**, ca. 1873<sup>161</sup>-bef. 1900<sup>162</sup>  
(Note: Joseph H. Witwer and Mary Jane (Lego) Witwer had two other children, who did not survive and are unnamed. See the discussion in the graveyard inventory at the end of this genealogy.)
- W1252.5 **Jonas M. Witwer**, June 1842<sup>163</sup>-Apr. 25, 1928;<sup>164</sup> bu. Mt. Pleasant United Brethren Cem., Greene Twp.; farmer.<sup>165</sup> Like his brother, Joseph H. Witwer, Jonas also enlisted in Criswell's Independent Infantry Regiment on Sept. 15, 1862, and mustered out Oct. 1, 1862.<sup>166</sup>
- m. Elizabeth Sarah Hendrick, Mar. 1850<sup>167</sup>-1923;<sup>168</sup> bu. Mt. Pleasant Cem.
- W1252.51 **Mary Ann Witwer**, Dec. 1876<sup>169</sup>-1902;<sup>170</sup> bu. Mt. Pleasant Cem.; single
- W1252.52 **Emma Jane Witwer**, 1878-1878;<sup>171</sup> inf.; bu. Mt. Pleasant Cem.
- W1252.53 **John Garfield Witwer**, Sept. 1881<sup>172</sup>-Apr. 8, 1944;<sup>173</sup> bu. Mt. Pleasant Cem.; farmer; single
- W1252.6 **Mary E. Witwer**, Apr. 22, 1844-Aug. 30, 1922;<sup>174</sup> bu. Mt. Pleasant Cem.
- m. William Christian Rice,<sup>175</sup> July 10, 1842-Jan. 3, 1911;<sup>176</sup> bu. Mt. Pleasant Cem.; Co. L, 21st Pa. Cav.
- Epitaph for William Christian Rice and Mary E. Witwer  
*Tis hard to break the tender cords,  
When love has bound the heart.  
Tis hard, so hard to speak the words,  
We must forever part.*
- W1252.61 **Emma E. Rice**, b. ca. 1872.<sup>177</sup> No death or burial record was found. Emma probably remarried after the death of her husband, Charles Wagaman, and is buried with her second husband.
- m. Sept. 27, 1894, by Rev. J. W. Kiracofe, Charles Wagaman,<sup>178</sup> 1869-1918;<sup>179</sup> bu. Mt. Pleasant Cem.
- W1252.611 **Marie E. Wagaman**, Feb. 28, 1898-June 20, 1899; bu. Mt. Pleasant Cem.;<sup>180</sup> d.y.
- W1252.612 **Charles W. Wagaman**, b. Sept. 12, 1902<sup>181</sup>
- W1252.62 **Grant Washington Rice**, July 1, 1874-1944;<sup>182</sup> bu. Air Hill Brethren in Christ Cem., Greene Twp.; farmer
- m.(1) Salome E. Wenger, 1881-1906<sup>183</sup>
- m.(2) Annie B. Wenger, b. 1880<sup>184</sup>
- W1253 **Catherine Witwer**, b. ca. 1812;<sup>185</sup> single. Catherine is described as "idiotic" in the 1850 census, when she was living with Philip and Leah Frey, and also in the 1860 census, when she was living with John and Hetty Hendricks. Her father, Jonas, provided for her care in his will by stating that Philip Frey should care for her unless unable to do so. In that event her care fell to John Hendricks. Apparently Philip Frey died between 1850 and 1860.
- W1254 **Leah Witwer**, May 28, 1816-Apr. 19, 1884;<sup>186</sup> bu. Witwer Farm Graveyard. Gravestone inscription: *In Memory of Mrs. Leah Hasler, Youngest daughter of Rev. Jonas Witwer, Sr.*
- m.(1) Philip Frey,<sup>187</sup> b. ca. 1809<sup>188</sup>-bef. 1860;<sup>189</sup> shoemaker;<sup>190</sup> reverend;<sup>191</sup> resided Greene Twp., Hamilton Twp., and Chambersburg
- m.(2) bef. 1860 John Huber, b. ca. 1798;<sup>192</sup> res. Greene Twp.
- m.(3) aft. 1871 John Hassler, Mar. 29, 1812-Oct. 5, 1885;<sup>193</sup> res. Quincy Twp. John's first wife, Sophia, died in 1871.
- W1254.1 **Otterbine J. Frey**, b. ca. 1845;<sup>194</sup> mustered into service on Aug. 7, 1863, and transferred on Jan. 4, 1864, to Co. L of the 21st Pa. Cavalry, part of the 182nd Pa. Vols. for three years of service. He was wounded at Bellefield, Va., on Dec. 10, 1864, and was absent (in hospital) at muster out.<sup>195</sup> No further information could be obtained.
- W1254.2 **Margaret Susan Frey**, Aug. 19, 1847-May 25, 1848;<sup>196</sup> inf.; bu. Witwer Farm Graveyard

<sup>152</sup>1910 Census, Davenport, 5th ward, ED 144, 141A, visit 508, 1937 Rock Island St. "Fred M. Hanna."

<sup>153</sup>See n. 150

<sup>154</sup>Social Security Death Index, Raymond Hanna, 334-09-6290; also, n. 150.

<sup>155</sup>Social Security Death Index, Dorothy H. Helmick, 480-30-4974.

<sup>156</sup>Www.drake.edu/newsevents/pubs/oncampus/050203/stories.html#helmick.

<sup>157</sup>Http://www.qcmemory.org/Genealogy/MarrCert/GroomHD-HER.htm.

<sup>158</sup>Social Security Death Index, Paul S. Helmick, 480-28-9994.

<sup>159</sup>See n. 156.

<sup>160</sup>The Des Moines Register, April 16, 2003, 1A, "Ex-Olympics leader Helmick dies."

<sup>161</sup>See n. 121.

<sup>162</sup>See n. 147.

<sup>163</sup>1900 Census, Greene Township, Franklin County, ED 42, 214A, visit 418, "Jonas M. Witwer."

<sup>164</sup>John F. W. Pfeuger, ed., *Tomestone Inscriptions of Franklin County, Pennsylvania*, vol. 9, Greene Township, Mt. Pleasant Brethren Cemetery (Chambersburg: Petticoat Press, 1986), 240; personal observation of gravestone on July 4, 2004. Mt. Pleasant Cemetery is at the intersection of Pa. Rte. 997 and White Church Road. Also, Deed 324-239, Franklin County Archives, states that Jonas M. Witwer died on April 25, 1928.



## Witwer Farm Graveyard, Remaining Inventory

Other individuals buried in the Witwer Farm Graveyard but not listed in the genealogy are as follows:

**John Kirkpatrick.** In Memory of John Kirkpatrick, Sen., Born 1784, Died Feb. 25, 1852, Aged 68 years. Father of Jane Kirkpatrick, wife of Joseph Witwer Sr. (W1252)

**Margaret Martin Kirkpatrick.** In memory of Margaret, Consort of John Kirkpatrick, Born 1788, Died July 18, 1860. Mother of Jane Kirkpatrick, wife of Joseph Witwer Sr. (W1252)

**James E. Kirkpatrick.** In memory of James E., son of John and Ann E. Kirkpatrick, who died Sept. 2, 1853, Aged 10 months and 5 days. John Kirkpatrick, the father, was the son of John and Margaret (Martin) Kirkpatrick. Anne E. Kirkpatrick was Anne Elizabeth (Leberknight) Kirkpatrick.

**John M. Kirkpatrick.** In memory of John M., son of John and Ann E. Kirkpatrick, who died Aug. 22, 1853, Aged 2 years, 3 months and 28 days. John Kirkpatrick, the father, was the son of John and Margaret (Martin) Kirkpatrick. Anne E. Kirkpatrick was Anne Elizabeth (Leberknight) Kirkpatrick. Brothers James E. and John M. Kirkpatrick died within two weeks of each other.

**Charles Ervin Kirkpatrick.** Infant son of Amanda E. Kirkpatrick, died Sept. 15, 1879, aged 5 months and 8 days. This is probably the son of William Kirkpatrick and his wife, Amanda (Furry) Kirkpatrick. William was the third son of John and Anne Elizabeth (Leberknight) Kirkpatrick.

**John G. Kirkpatrick.** Son of William and Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, died Aug. 23, 1865, Aged 6 years, 3 months, and 12 days. The William Kirkpatrick mentioned here is probably the son of John and Margaret (Martin) Kirkpatrick.

**Capt. Foster Kennedy.** Born May 17, 1798, Died Dec. 10, 1879, Aged 81 years, 6 months and 23 days. No military record could be found for Foster Kennedy.

**Margaret Kennedy.** Born Dec. 25, 1812, Died Nov. 28, 1884, Aged 71 years, 11 months and 3 days. Margaret was the wife of Capt. Foster Kennedy, daughter of John and Margaret (Martin) Kirkpatrick and sister to Jane (Kirkpatrick) Witwer.

**John Kennedy.** Co. G, 205th Reg't, P.V., Fell in the battle of Petersburg, Apr. 2, 1865, Aged 20 years, 9 months, and 15 days. Epitaph:

Oh wrap the flag around me boys  
To die were far more sweet  
With freedom's starry emblem boys  
To be my winding sheet.

John Kennedy was the son of Capt. Foster and Margaret (Kirkpatrick) Kennedy. He died just one week before Appomattox.

**Sarah Jane Kennedy.** In Memory of Sarah Jane, Daughter of Foster and Margaret Kennedy, Died Oct. 5, 1854, Aged 5 years, 8 months, and 1 day

John and Sarah Jane Kennedy were the only children of Capt. Foster and Margaret Kennedy.

Two small gravestones with inscriptions "A C G" and "A S" stand at the eastern edge of the graveyard. These stones were reset in that site by the Boy Scouts at the direction of Ellis Cramer, a descendant of Emma J. C. Heintzelman (W1252.13). Mr. Cramer stated that the stones represented the burial site of twin daughters who died at birth in 1891. He remembered that the children were the daughters of Emma and Harmon Oliver.

However, Emma and Harmon had surviving children born in 1890, 1891, and 1893. In the 1910 census (see n. 107) Emma reported ten children born and ten living. It is possible the twins were the missing two children of Joseph H. (W1252.4) and Margaret (Lego) Witwer (see n. 147). However, 1891, if accurate, would have been a late date for such an event, and the initials are not appropriate.

The Grand Army of the Republic markers in the cemetery have multiplied and moved over the years. A marker should be at the grave of John Kennedy but at no others. They may have been placed at the graves of Rev. Jonas Witwer and Joseph Witwer Sr. because of mistaken identity. The actual Civil War veterans were Joseph H. Witwer and Jonas M. Witwer, sons of Joseph Witwer Sr., neither of whom are buried here.

It has been reported erroneously in many places that Gen. Michael R. Witwer is buried in the Witwer Farm Graveyard. Gen. Witwer is buried in the Lancaster Cemetery, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. □

<sup>105</sup>1870 Census, Greene Township, Franklin County, 187B-188A, visit 412, "Joseph Witwer"; also, n. 163.

<sup>106</sup>See n. 122.

<sup>107</sup>1900 Census, Greene Township, Franklin County, ED 42, visit 418, "Jonas M. Witwer."

<sup>108</sup>See n. 164.

<sup>109</sup>See n. 163.

<sup>110</sup>See n. 164.

<sup>111</sup>Ibid.

<sup>112</sup>See n. 163; also, 1920 Census, Greene Township, Franklin County, ED 19, 56B, visit 166, "Jonas M. Witwer."

<sup>113</sup>See n. 164; also, Deed 324-239 states that John G. Witwer died on April 8, 1944.

<sup>114</sup>Ibid. Also, estate no. 21346, Mary E. Rice, Will Y-623, dated May 31, 1913, filed for probate Sept. 9, 1922, Franklin County Archives.

<sup>115</sup>Obituary for Mrs. Jane Witwer, *Franklin Reporter*, October 3, 1898; also, estate no. 12465, Joseph Witwer Sr., Will K-349.

<sup>116</sup>See n. 164.

<sup>117</sup>1880 Census, Greene Township, Franklin County, ED 96, 197C, visit 279, "William C. Rice."

<sup>118</sup>*Public Opinion*, Chambersburg, Pa., October 5, 1894, marriage of Emma E. Rice and Charles Wagaman.

<sup>119</sup>See n. 164.

<sup>120</sup>Ibid.

<sup>121</sup>Register of Births, vol. 3, Clerk of the Courts, Franklin County Archives. Charles W. Wagaman, son of Charles and Emma Wagaman; birth Sept. 12, 1902, at Cold Spring.

<sup>122</sup>John F. W. Pfeuger, ed., *Tombstone Inscriptions of Franklin County, Pennsylvania*, vol. 9, Greene Township, Air Hill Brethren in Christ Cemetery (Chambersburg: Petticoat Press, 1986), 20.

<sup>123</sup>Ibid.

<sup>124</sup>Ibid.

<sup>125</sup>See n. 61.

<sup>126</sup>See n. 2.

<sup>127</sup>See nn. 44 and 61.

<sup>128</sup>See n. 61.

<sup>129</sup>1860 Census, Greene Township, Franklin County, 254, visit 1939, "John Huber."

<sup>130</sup>See Cell, 1843 Tax Records, 67.

<sup>131</sup>Deed 39-161, Franklin County Archives. Rev. Philip "Fry" of Hamilton Township and Leah, his wife, to William Etter, for 160 acres, 51 perches, in Hamilton Township, dated Nov. 22, 1854.

<sup>132</sup>See n. 189.

<sup>133</sup>1880 Census, Quincy Township, Franklin County, ED 113, 541A, visit 219, "John Hassler."

<sup>134</sup>See nn. 61 and 189

<sup>135</sup>Samuel Bates, *History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers*, vol. 9, 95, 122.

<sup>136</sup>See n. 2.



# Readers' Ancestry

Each Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage issue features a member of the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society who has traced his or her ancestral lines at least six generations. Readers with questions and/or additions are encouraged to write to the Society member to exchange information.



Marianne (Boyce) Matthews

**Marianne (Boyce) Matthews** was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on May 9, 1957. Her parents moved to York County by the time she turned one year old. She was reared in the Church of the Brethren tradition, and her parents are still members of Second Church of the Brethren in York, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Central York High School in 1975 and received her diploma in nursing from Lancaster General School of Nursing in 1978. Later she earned a Concentrated Bible Certificate from Lancaster Bible College. She married Joseph L. Matthews in 1982. In 1988 they responded to God's call to the mission field in Swaziland, Africa, where they served for four years. Marianne is currently employed as a registered nurse at York Hospital. She is also a pastor's wife and the mother of two children, Amanda and Geoffrey, ages nineteen and sixteen. She is a member of Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and Valley Grange, no. 1360, in York County and is active in Keystone Baptist Church of Red Lion, Pennsylvania. She lives at 14 Pawnee Drive, Windsor, PA 17366, and enjoys researching the family tree as a hobby.



Joseph Lee and Marianne (Boyce) Matthews (no. 1)

1. **BOYCE**, Marianne, b. May 9, 1957, Lancaster, Lancaster Co., Pa.; m. May 29, 1982, at York, Pa., Joseph Lee Matthews, b. Feb. 5, 1956, York, Pa., son of Carl Lewis Matthews and Mildred Irene Brown. Children: Amanda Michelle Matthews and Geoffrey Allen Matthews.

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY



Left to right: Joseph L. Matthews, Marianne B. Matthews (no. 1), Robert S. Boyce (no. 2), Miriam A. Boyce (no. 3), Amanda Matthews, Steve Boyce.



Robert Stively (no. 2) and Miriam Arlene (Spahr) Boyce (no. 3) in 1988