

HISTORY OF THE STREAM FAMILY

by Douglas K. Stream

INTRODUCTION

47 years have transpired since my father, the late Wendell W. Stream, and I began researching our Stream family history. It is to his memory that this abbreviated report is dedicated. Ever since my father received a typewritten extract (dated 13 February 1949) from his Grandfather Harvey Oscar Stream (*taken from the biographical sketch of William C. Stream in the 1887 History of Greene County, Iowa*), he had harbored a latent interest in the history of this family. However, the spark that ignited our genealogical quest (*or should I say "bug"?*) was the Roots television mini-series that was broadcast in late January 1977. If only we could have known then just how far this journey would take us....

After visiting several Iowa county courthouses and cemeteries in the spring of 1978, our family embarked on a road trip vacation across the eastern half of the United States. We were determined to trace the route that our ancestors had taken from northern Virginia to central Ohio and on to Iowa. As our research time was quite limited, we realized that we were only viewing the proverbial "tip of the iceberg", but our enthusiasm continued to increase as we gained more knowledge and met long-lost cousins along the way.

It was while I was stationed at Vint Hill Farms Station near Warrenton, Virginia in 1983 that we began making plans to rendezvous for the purposes of furthering our research. On the 1st day of April 1984, my father and I met in Hershey, Pennsylvania for a week of intense Stream family research. After researching at

the State Library in entire day working at the Lancaster County Historical stopping at the Phillip Marshall College). From Ephrata, where we visited Union Church. Valley Historical Society was visit, and it would be many make inquiry there. Last but memorable afternoon conducting research at



Finally, we spent a memorable Harrisburg, we spent an county courthouse and Society in Lancaster, before Schaaf Library (Franklin and there, we drove over to the historic Muddy Creek Unfortunately, the Cocalico closed on the day of our years before we would not least, we spent a

afternoon at the Genealogical and Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. It was here that we found the following information from the *Published Pennsylvania Archives* (Volume I, 5th Series, Pennsylvania Militia History) : **(John) Henry Strehme, date of commission: 29 May 1757; three year enlistment, age 27, a joiner from Germany.** Even with the limited knowledge that we possessed at that time, we knew that this gentleman was the same person who had emigrated to Penn's Colony in 1754. Without a doubt, this whirlwind week of research proved highly successful, but it would take us quite some time to process everything that we had found that week.

Before proceeding with the story, I need to rewind the clock to November 1983. While researching at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. I located a vintage advertisement that Henrich Strehm had placed in the *Sowers (German) Newspaper*, dated 6 June 1760. The source was a book published by Edward Hocker in 1935, entitled, "*Genealogical Data relating to the German Settlers of Pennsylvania... from advertisements in German Newspapers published in Philadelphia and Germantown, 1743-1800*". Just one week after his discharge from militia duty, my fifth great-grandfather had placed this advertisement in an effort to determine the whereabouts of his long-lost brother, Henrich Adam.

Did the two brothers ever re-connect? Well, there's no way to know for sure, but I can tell you this; earlier this year (2024) I found a reference in a Hessian probate file to a letter that Henrich, Sr. had written to his parents shortly before his marriage. In that letter, he lamented that he had lost contact with his brother. In any event, after many years of contemplation, I believe it's prudent to assume that Henrich Adam must have died from disease or been killed by belligerent Indians while his brother was enlisted with the local militia unit, as his name does not appear in any records anywhere.

On the last day of September 1754, my fifth great-grandfather, Johann Henrich Strehm, Sr. and his younger brother, Henrich Adam qualified at the port of Philadelphia aboard the ship *Edinburgh*. As the ships' manifest indicated that the passengers were from the Palatinate and Wurttemberg, we - for many years - falsely assumed that our two Strehm emigrants had originated from that area of Germany.

On the last day of May 1761, Johann Henrich Strehm, Sr. and Maria Margaretha Wolff were married at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran church in New Holland, Pennsylvania. At the time of their marriage, he was a resident of Earl Township, near present-day Ephrata. Very little is known about their early married life in Lancaster County, but I did find something from the Cocalico Valley Historical Society earlier this year that adds substance to my story. According to a detailed "*debt book*" journal that Michael Muller faithfully kept between 1748 and 1786, he sold two windows to

"*Hennerich Stremm* on the Middle Creek" in May 1762. Evidently, Henrich was installing new windows into a log cabin that he was constructing for his fledgling family.

Shortly thereafter, the baptism of two sons was recorded at the Muddy Creek Union Church near Ephrata - Henrich Adam in 1765 and Johann Friedrich in 1767. I can only speculate that one or two daughters may have been born prior to 1765, as it would not be unlikely that Henrich and Margareth would name their firstborn son after the younger brother who had disappeared shortly after arriving in Pennsylvania.

This union was blessed with 11 or 12 children:

Barbara Strehm

Henrich Adam

Johann Friedrich

Margaretha Anna

Sarah

Anthony

Sally

Johann Henrich, Jr.

Elizabetha

Michael, and

Johannes

Unfortunately, very little is known about this family, as absolutely nothing appears in print between 1769 and 1783, when the youngest son, Johannes was baptized at the Evangelical Lutheran church in Frederick City, Maryland. For whatever reason, church records from both Muddy Creek in Lancaster County and those in Frederick and Middletown in Frederick County, Maryland are completely silent with regard to members of this German family.

In the commonwealth of Virginia between 1757 (when Loudoun County was created) and 1786, all males 16 years of age and older were assessed a tithe by the Anglican parish where they resided. (*this requirement was terminated in 1786*) Prior to 1770, these tithes were payable to Cameron Parish, and to Shelburne Parish thereafter. From the list of Loudoun County tithables (i.e. taxpayers) that Hiatt and Scott published in 1994, Henry STRAME appears in the listings for 1782 and 1784 in Shelburne Parish. As the Strehm, Stram, Strem, or Strum surname is conspicuously missing from these tithable lists before 1782, I think it's safe to assume that they didn't cross the Potomac

to establish residence in to that date. agreement with the early Lovettsville, too, as family begin to appear in My paternal line of Michael Strehm. He Dorscheimer in 1796, just east of Short Hill establishment of the Harper's Ferry in/about service with a three-location and Baltimore. estate, administered 1827, indicates that he photograph shows my the day we found St. James Reformed church cemetery outside the town of Lovettsville. Dated: August, 1978



the German Settlement prior Furthermore, this is in church records at several members of the the records starting in 1785. descent is traced down from married Maria Magdalena and settled on a small farm Mountain. After the U.S. Armory and Arsenal at 1800, he operated a freight team hitch between that The detailed inventory of his shortly after his death in was quite prosperous. This father, Wendell Stream, on Michael Stream's grave at



This is my father at the old New Jerusalem Lutheran graveyard in Lovettsville.

MICHAEL STREHM / STREAM

Husband		Michael Strehm	
Born	Jan 1774	Lancaster County, PA	
Christened			
Died	25 Jan 1827	Lovettsville, Loudoun County, VA (at age 52)	
Buried		St James United Cemetery, Lovettsville, Loudoun Co, VA	
Father	Johann Herich Strehm, Sr. (1729-1807)	Mother	Maria Margretha Wulff (-1812)
Marriage	10 Oct 1796	Loudoun Co VA	

Wife		Maria Magdalena Dorscheimer	
Born	2 Aug 1774	Frederick City, Frederick County, Maryland	
Christened	30 Apr 1775	Frederick City, Frederick County, Maryland	
Died	16 Feb 1856	St.Louisville, Licking County, Ohio (at age 81)	
Buried	19 Feb 1856	Marple Cemetery, Licking County, Chatham Off	
Father	Jacob Dorscheimer (C) 1715-After 1806)	Mother	Clara (1740-Cir 1796)

Children			
1	M	Jacob S. Stream	
Born	14 Feb 1797	Loudoun Co VA	
Christened			
Died	25 Oct 1856	Loudoun Co VA (at age 59)	
Buried		St James United Cemetery, Lovettsville, Loudoun Co VA	
Spouse	Suzannah Phable [Fawley] (1803-1889)	28 Mar 1824 - Loudoun Co VA	

2	M	Wilhelm Strehm	
Born	24 Jul 1798	Lovettsville, Loudoun Co, VA	
Christened			
Died	1 Jan 1889	Orient, Union Co IA (at age 90)	
Buried		Orient Cemetery Orient IA	
Spouse	Jemima Hurl (1798-1827)	29 Jun 1820 - Frederick Co, MD	
Spouse	Pleasant M. (Garvick) Wright (1798-1885)	18 Sep 1817 - Loudoun Co, VA	
Spouse	Pleasant M. (Garvick) Wright (1798-1885)	6 Mar 1828 - New Jerusalem Church, Loudoun Co VA	

3	F	Nancy Strehm	
Born	21 Mar 1800	Loudoun Co, VA	
Christened	1 May 1800	Lovettsville, Loudoun Co, VA	
Died			
Buried			
Spouse	Jonathan Hazenholter [Householder] (1796-1848)	4 May 1820 - Loudoun Co VA	

4	M	Elias Stream	
Born	18 Mar 1802	Lovettsville, Loudoun Co, Va	
Christened			
Died	18 Feb 1863	Ely, Linn County, Iowa (at age 60)	
Buried		Rogers Grove Cemetery, Ely, Iowa	
Spouse	Mary Ann Waters (1813-1873)	24 Sep 1831 - Loudoun Co, VA [Sherborn]	

MICHAEL STREHM / STREAM

Children (0006)		
5	M	George Stream
Born	20 May 1805	Lovettsville, Loudoun County, Virginia
Christened		
Died	11 Mar 1881	Madison Co. IA (at age 75)
Buried		Rogers Grove Cemetery, Ely IA
Spouse	June Betzer Baird (1816-1878)	25 Aug 1836 - Licking Co. OH
6	F	Lydia Stream
Born	17 Dec 1808	Harpers Ferry, Loudoun Co VA
Christened		
Died	3 Nov 1861	Rr Licking Co VA (at age 52)
Buried		Marple Cem, Chambers OH
Spouse	Augustine Muse Sanford (1797-1877)	
Marr. Date	7 Oct 1824	New Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church Loudoun Co VA
7	M	Israel Stream
Born	18 Oct 1809	Loudoun Co VA
Christened		
Died	4 May 1853	Petersville, Frederick Co MD (at age 43)
Buried		St. Marks Af Church Cem, Petersville, Frederick Co. MD
Spouse	Catherine M. Rhodes (1809-1889)	3 Oct 1832 - Frederick MD
8	F	Makala Stream
Born	30 May 1811	Loudoun Co VA
Christened		
Died		Licking Co OH
Buried		
Spouse	George Phable [Fawley] (1795-)	24 Dec 1828 - Lovettsville VA
9	F	Marie Anna Stream
Born	26 Sep 1813	Loudoun Co. VA
Christened		
Died	XX/XXX/1849	Need Last Legal Address (at age -1795)
Buried		
Spouse	Adam Potterfield (1801-1837)	28 Apr 1827 - New Jerusalem, Lovettsville VA
10	F	Elixa Ann Stream
Born	14 Jan 1817	Loudoun Co VA
Christened		
Died	28 Apr 1905	Licking Co OH (at age 88)
Buried		Marple Cem, Licking Co. OH
Spouse	John Marple (1811-1887)	18 Jan 1839 - Licking Co OH
11	M	Ferry Stream
Born	18 Mar 1820	Rr Loudoun Co VA
Christened		
Died	Abt 1832	Unknown (about age 12)
Buried		
Spouse		

HISTORY OF LOUDOUN COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Although the first Germans settled into what was later to become the *Old Dominion* in 1714, it wasn't until 1732 that an organized colony of Palatine German families migrated into the Northern Neck from Pennsylvania. According to historian Briscoe Goodhart, who published a newspaper article entitled *The German Settlement* in 1900, approximately 65-70 families established residency in northern Virginia between 1732 and 1734. Included in his list was the surname STREAM, although as we have already seen, at least one of these families arrived after the initial influx. Sometime around the year 1730, members of the German Reformed church settled in what would soon be known as the *German Settlement*. This was the name by which English "outsiders" would refer to this German colony for over 90 years. Another influx of German Lutherans arrived in this area in/about 1765.

It wasn't until David Lovett - a grandson of one of the original settlers of the early 1730s - sub-divided his land in 1820 that the community would be re-christened. "New Town" Post Office opened in 1823, and the town was officially re-named Lovettsville in 1828, it was formally incorporated in 1836.

To give you greater understanding as to how the northwest section of Loudoun County came to be settled, the following is extracted from an article written by Mr. Eugene Scheel, entitled "*Ample Land Drew German Settlers to Loudoun County*".

"There were property owners, chief among them William Fairfax, who had the land south of the Potomac surveyed in 1736 and divided into two manors, or estates for himself and the Fairfax family. These manors were called Shannondale and Piedmont. Mr. Fairfax served as the real estate agent for Thomas, 6th Lord Fairfax, his first cousin.

Shannondale Manor is the valley between the Blue Ridge and Short Hill mountains, known as Between the Hills. The Piedmont is the region approximately between Catoctin Creek and Short Hill. To the east of Piedmont Manor, John Colvill, a Tidewater land speculator, amassed a 16,000-acre manor called Catoctin, with William Fairfax's consent. This manor extended east to Catoctin Mountain. Land in these manors could only be leased, so the rents would provide income for the Fairfax and Colvill families.

A surveyor by the name of Yardley Taylor published a remarkably detailed map of Loudoun County in 1853. Until Eugene Scheel's historical maps appeared 30 years ago, this was the most detailed map of Loudoun County. Though you can't read the names of the landowners in this digital copy, this historic map identifies the location of

Henry Stream's small farm, located about 3.5 miles due west of Lovettsville on the east side of Short Hill Mountain.



SAINT JAMES REFORMED CHURCH (United Church of Christ)

The early history of St. James Reformed Church and that of the German Settlement cum Lovettsville are virtually inseparable. Although the earliest records of the Reformed congregation at Lovettsville were destroyed, it is generally understood that this church was organized no later than 1730. Reverend Henrich Giesy's record book was started on 17 September 1789. It is noteworthy that one of the four original deacons, Jacob Durstheimer, was the father of Michael Strehm's future wife, Maria Magdalena!

All entries in the church records were in German until May, 1811. So pervasive was the old language that it was not entirely replaced by English until August, 1823. In

the transition years, records are found to alternate between the two languages. Baptismal and confirmation records pertaining to members of the Strehm family were not *anglicized* until about 1815 or so.

The first brick church building was erected somewhere in the cemetery yard in 1819. The present St. James United Church of Christ was dedicated on 1 June 1902.

LOUDOUN COUNTY MILITARY SERVICE

In June 1777, a man named Henry Stroam (Stream) enlisted in Colonel Nicholas Houssegger's German Regiment of the Continental Troops. (*both surnames appear in the records*). According to the muster rolls catalogued at the National Archives, Henry Stream served in one of the four Maryland companies from 12 July 1776 until May, 1778. He was discharged on 17 July 1779. However, I have not been able to verify if this soldier was in fact my fifth great-grandfather.

Michael Stream's eldest son, Jacob, served as a private in the 56th Regiment (Taylor's) of the Virginia Militia from 1812 to 1815 (War of 1812). Subsequently, he appears as AWOL in the 57th Regiment in 1816.

In the Loudoun County Militia Book (1793-1809), the following references are found to members of the Stream family: (*list of delinquents or AWOL*)

1805 and 1808	Henry Stream, Jr.	57 th Regiment
1805	John Stream	57 th Regiment
undated	Michael Stream	Roster of CPT James White's Co.
1824, 1822	Elias Stream	57 th Reg / 2 nd BN
1824	George Stream	57 th Reg / 2 nd BN
1816, 1824, 1827	Henry Stream	57 th Reg / 2 nd BN
1816, 1822	Jacob Stream	57 th Reg / 2 nd BN
1811-1824	John Stream	57 th Reg / 2 nd BN
1822, 1825	William Stream	57 th Reg / 2 nd BN
1855-1859	William Henry Stream	57 th Reg / 2 nd BN
1855-1859	Charles H. Stream	56 th Reg / 1 st District

1854-1859	George W. Stream	56 th Reg / 1 st District
1854-1859	Jacob Henry Stream	56 th Reg / 1 st District
1854-59	John Stream	56 th Reg/ 1 st District
1855,1859	Oliver W. Stream	56 th Reg / 1 st District
1854-55	Thomas A. Stream	56 th Reg / 1 st District

As far as is known, no members of this family served in the Civil War from the commonwealth of Virginia. Loudoun County was pro-Union; two companies of cavalry served in the celebrated Loudoun Rangers. Five members of the Stream family served from Iowa and one from Ohio.

EPILOGUE

As I stated earlier, all circumstantial evidence (*or should I say rumor?*) indicated that Johann Henrich Strehm, Sr. originated somewhere in Wurtemberg, or perhaps Rhineland-Phalz. Despite all of our diligent efforts over the course of four decades, my father and I were unable to determine a Geburtsort or Herkunft (birthplace or origin) in Germany.... Until one unforgettable day in March 2024!

Here is how my near near-miracle played out, as best as I can recall - a tale of what can happen when sheer persistence meets Lady Luck! One day in early March as I was killing time on my computer, I stumbled across the Hessian archival website LAGIS. Never having done any research in the German state of Hesse-Nassau, I had absolutely no confidence that I would find anything of value to my family research. When I typed in the name of my fifth great-grandfather – lo and behold – what should suddenly appear on my screen but his name and that of his younger brother, Henrich Adam!

A little more digging that hour revealed that these two brothers' names appeared in an old German probate record from 1785. At this point, I didn't know where this might lead me, but I knew enough that I HAD to find the source document. Several days later, I stumbled across another incredible website. ARCHION is a master search engine that links 25 major German archival repositories for research purposes. Would you believe that they have already digitized over 175,000 German Kirchenbucher (church records)?

It doesn't cost anything to post a query on ARCHION, so I carefully prepared a rather lengthy query and translated it into German, as I wanted to ensure that everyone who might see it would understand exactly what I was attempting to find. When I

posted my query on March 8th, I had so little confidence that this would bear any fruit that I didn't even check my e-mail for another three days.

Can you imagine how I felt that glorious day when I received three or four responses to this query, along with digital copies from the original church books attached as proof?!? Let me tell you.... I could have walked on water for several hours that day! There it was - 46 years later - for me to see from the Lorsbach Evangelisch Kirchenbuch: Johann Henrich Strehm was born on 11 November 1729 near the tiny village of Langenhain, Hesse. (*the two villages are only two kilometers apart*) To this day, I still do not know how my volunteer researcher angel knew which church records to search? I can only speculate that whoever provided the long-sought piece of information must have been the same person who had posted a reference (April 2023) to that Hessian probate file that I alluded to earlier.

From the German Settlement of Lovettsville, three brothers, William, Elias, and George Stream, migrated to Licking County, Ohio in 1832, and then ventured further west to the fertile fields of Linn County, Iowa in 1855. As that part of the story bears little relevance to the history of Pennsylvania and Virginia, I will leave that for another day.

If you would like to know more about Stream family history and genealogy, contact the author at Pepperking57@gmail.com