

MECKEL to MECKLEY to MACKLEY

A family story, history and genealogy.
1749 - 2007

BY
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2007

Primary surnames of Immigrants:

Meckel, Mackley, Meckley, Hengst

Includes the surnames:

King, Rohrbach, Rudisill, Stambaugh, Winter(s), Workman, plus many more.

Locales:

Pennsylvania -

Counties of York, Adams, Blair and Bedford

Ohio -

Counties of Darke, Morrow, Crawford, Richland, Lucas, Sandusky, Licking, Hardin, Allen, Wood, Medina, Stark

Utah

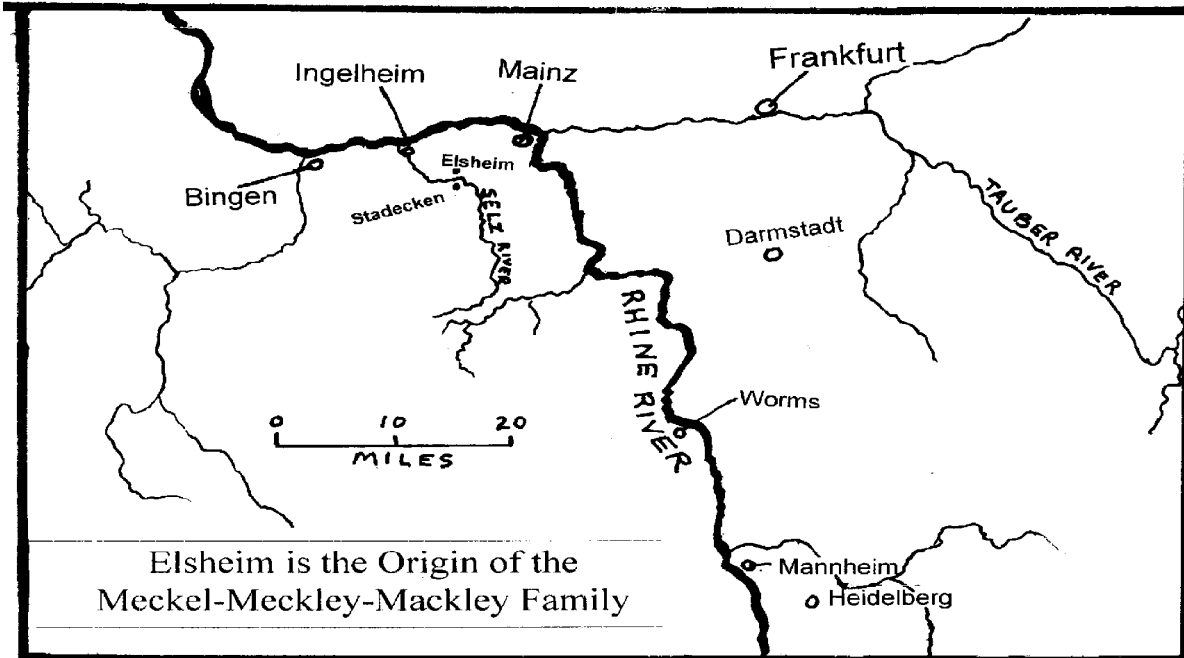
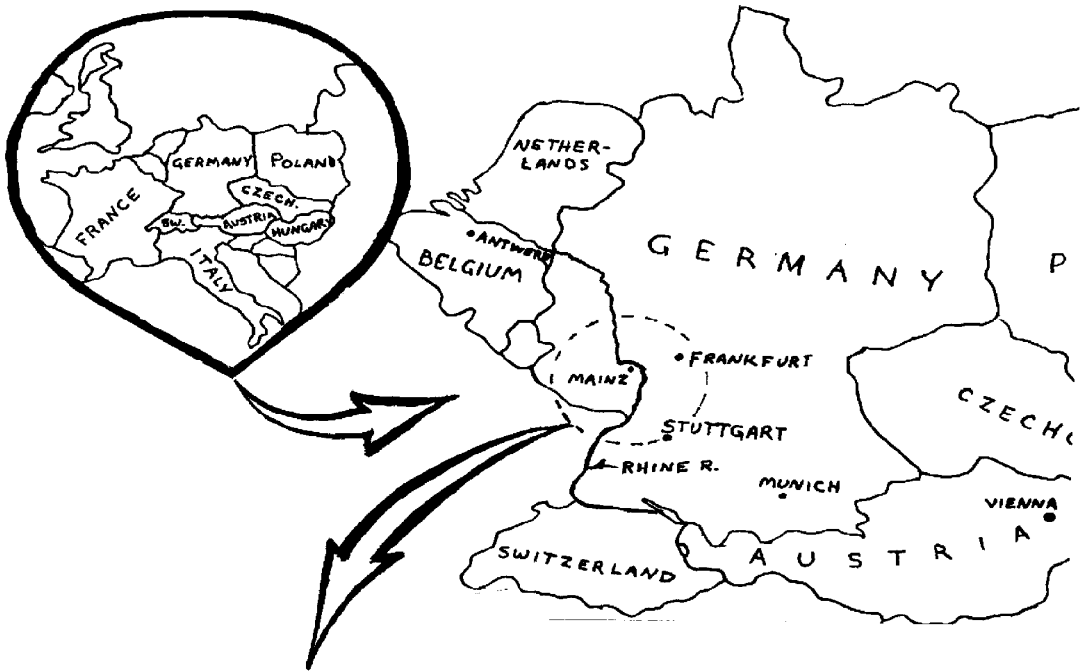
California

Maryland

Iowa

Nebraska

Germany - Electoral Palatinate, Rhineland Pfalz



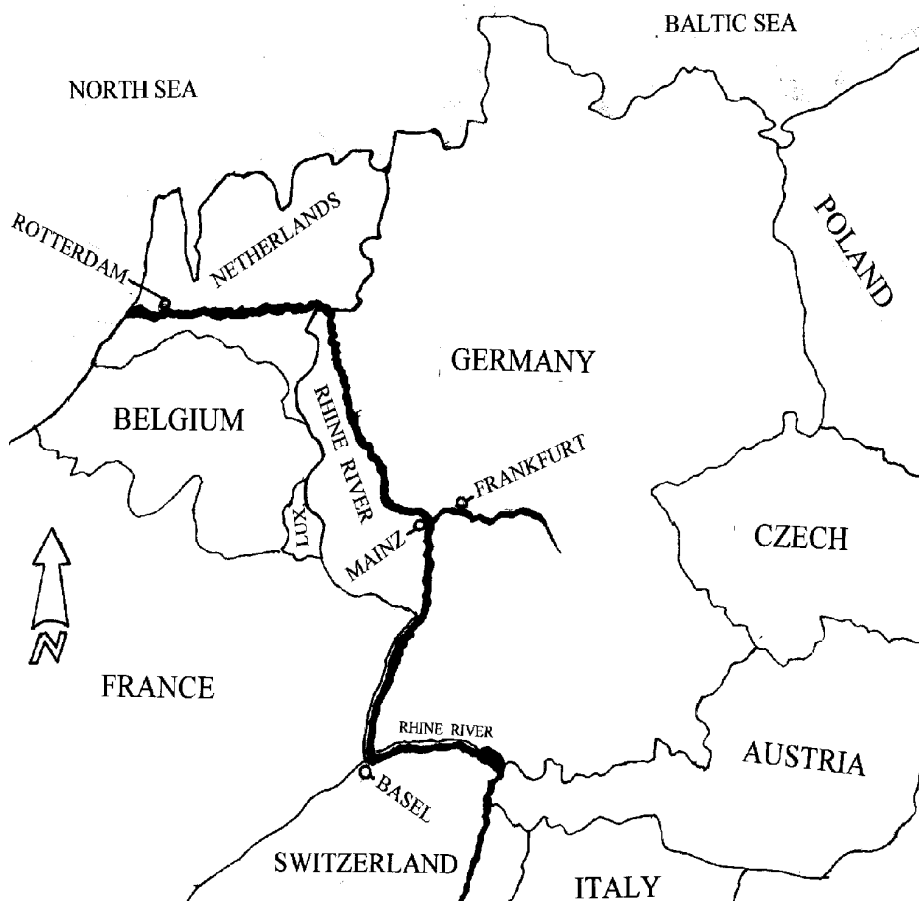
THE RHINE VALLEY

A river flows out of the Alpine Region of central Switzerland and completes its journey in the North Sea. It is the longest river in Western Europe - the Rhine River. It got its name from the Celtic word "renos" meaning "raging flow". The river flows past the tiny country of Liechtenstein, then, the Austrian State of Vorarlberg and, as it enters Germany, it flows into Lake Constance (Bodensee), one of the largest freshwater lakes in Europe. At the outlet of this lake is the roaring Schaffhausen Falls, a natural barrier to navigation both downstream from the Alps and upstream from the sea.

The Rhine River then flows westerly for about 80 miles, bordering Switzerland and Germany,. Then at Basel, Switzerland, turns north through the Black Forest region of Germany on it's right bank and France on it's left. Next it passes near the ancient cities of Strasbourg and Mannheim where the Neckar River joins it. A little further downstream it connects with the Main River at the city of Mainz, not far from Frankfurt.

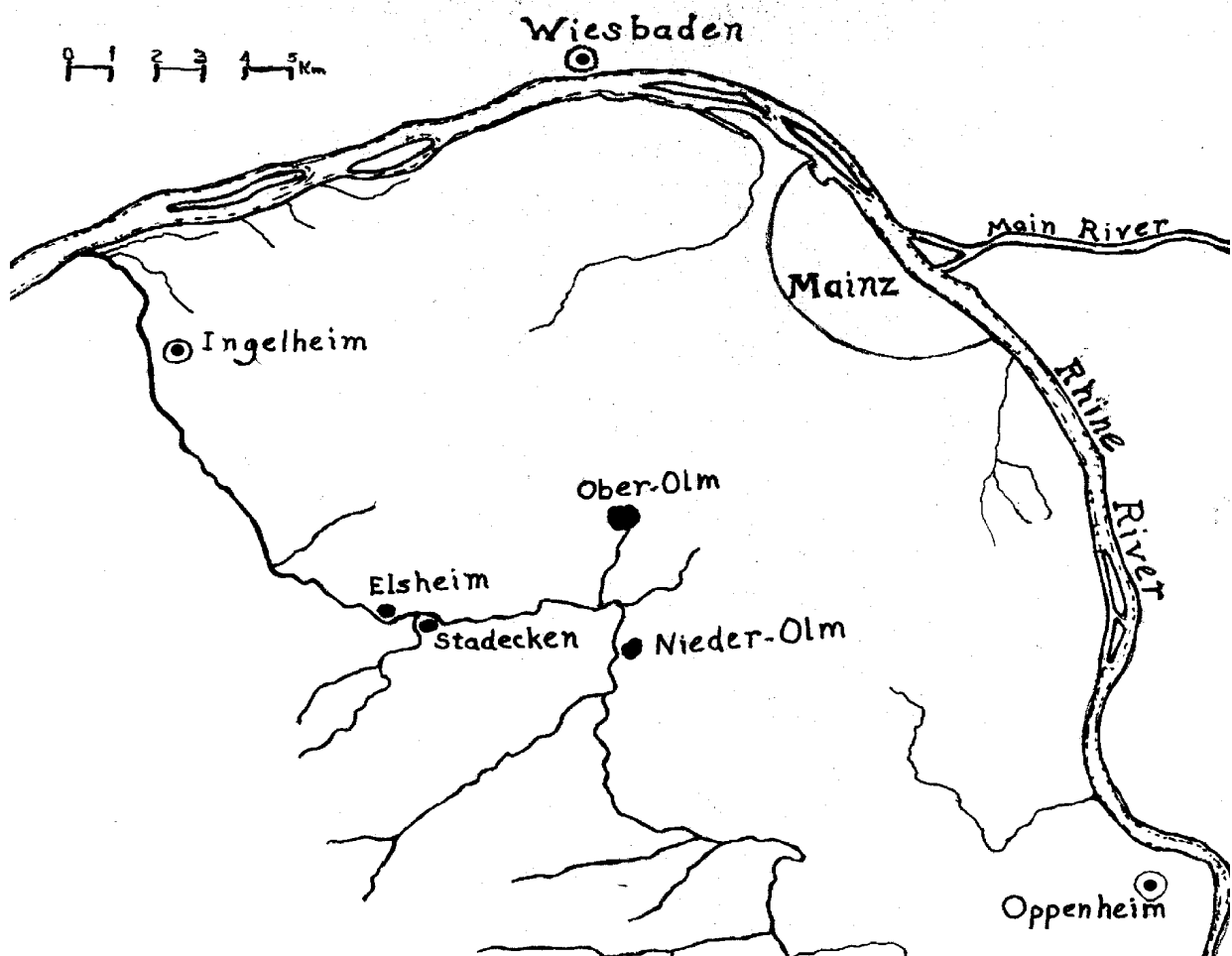
On the Right Bank of the Rhine, at the ancient city of Wiesbaden, just across the Rhine from Mainz, is where the rich and noble have been bathing at the mineral spas since Roman times. Not far from this area are the quaint towns and fairytale villages where the Brothers Grimm grew up and of which they based their stories. Beyond Mainz, it passes through a

gorge section, which is lined with many castles and customs houses dating back to the 11th century. This section is the most scenic and beautiful of all the Rhine River valley. Eventually it reaches the cities of Bonn, Cologne, and Dusseldorf before meandering through the Netherlands and finally emerging into the North Sea.



THE PALATINATE Ancestral Home

Situated about six miles southeast of Wiesbaden, Mainz is on the Rhine's left bank opposite the convergence of the Main River. It was originally the site of a Celtic settlement, after which the Romans had a military camp. Now it is the capital of the German State of Rhineland-Palatinate (in German-- the Rheinland-Pfalz) and is the center of the Rhine Wine district, called RhineHessen, having the most vineyards of all of Germany. Johann Gutenberg, who invented movable type for printing, resided and worked in the town of Mainz.



About 8 miles southwest of Mainz is the very small town of Elsheim. This little town was first occupied in the year 1144. In 1700, it was in the County of Oppenheim in the province of the Electoral Palatinate. This area is known as "The Hugelland", or The Hill Country, because of the soft and gently undulating land. The elevations from the low riverbeds to the top of the neighboring hills are about 300 – 400 feet. The area is widely unforested having been used for centuries as agricultural land. Elsheim and another town within one mile away are in a valley straddling a small river called "Selz". These two towns had grown to the point of

converging and since 1969 are considered as one town - Stackeden-Elsheim. The Selz River passes between these towns eventually adding its flow to the Rhine River near Ingelheim to the north.

The ancestor of the Mackley/Meckley family was a resident of Elsheim in the early 1700's. His name was **Christian Meckel** (pronounce this MAY-kel, will explain later). Although little is known about his life here, we do know he was of the Lutheran faith, possibly born before 1710 and he was married having four children prior to his immigration to North America. Most likely he was a farmer, presumably growing grapes. His language most likely was High German and of the Middle German-Rhine Franconian dialect which was spoken in the Palatinate and in the Hesse province.

To better understand this family and the reasons they may have had to leave their homeland, we need to explore some of this region's history.

History of the Rhine Valley

Germany's history had been quite turbulent with many wars going back a thousand years before the Christian era. At that time, the Celts lived in this region, and then tribes from Scandinavia and other northern districts migrated, farmed and settled in the area replacing and genetically mixing with the Celts.

In 9 A.D. the Germans, led by Hermann ("Arminius" to the Romans), permanently secured the independence of the Germanic tribes at the famous battle of Teutoburger Forest, just north of the Palatinate. Within the span of three days, in the swamps and marshes of the densely wooded forests, they annihilated three of Caesar's famous Roman Legions consisting of 20,000 soldiers along with 10,000 of their camp followers. Only a few hundred survivors escaped. This was one of the top ten worst blunders in the entire history of military actions. So horrible was the battlefield that for six years no one came to bury the dead. This ancient battle forever established the Rhine River as the boundary between Latin and Germanic territories.

There were many other conflicts since then. The Franks also occupied this region during the first millennium and is reflected in the names of some of the towns. Town names ending in "heim" are of Frank origin with many towns in the Rhineland-Palatinate area using this suffix. Other towns have Latin names like the town of Bacharach, named for the "altar of" the Roman god of wine, Bacchus, because of the great wines produced in the district.

In the seventeenth century, the area we currently know as Germany consisted of 234 countries (kingdoms, dukedoms, palatinates, principalities, grand duchies, and electorates) along with 51 free cities and self-governing towns, and about 1500 knightly manors and personal estates of as little as a few acres, governed by nobody but the lords who owned it. Each of these independent political units had its own laws, government, taxes, police, justice, and education. The Palatinate area itself consisted of 44 different countries.

Perhaps as a result of so many political divisions, there were many wars, which killed many civilians of these Germanic districts, especially in the Palatinate where most of the battles took place. Since before the 13th century, the ruler of the Electoral Palatinate was also one of the electors of the Holy Roman Emperor. But in 1546 the Elector Frederick II left Catholicism and became a Lutheran. His successor, Frederick III, in 1562 turned the Palatinate to Calvinism. Religious radicals - from the Holy Roman Empire (the Catholic Church) and the followers of Luther and Calvin - initiated many wars and disputes. The Thirty Years War from 1618 to 1648 caused population losses estimated at fifty percent or more, and the War of the Austrian Succession in 1740 caused further destruction and death. These wars initiated major migrations out of the region, many into other countries and other continents. Great Britain

enticed many German families to come to their country, or to their colonies, while others went east to Russia.

In the late 1600's and early 1700's, the British Colonies in America were sending recruiters to Europe urging citizens to emigrate to America. William Penn sent agents to Germany to distribute pamphlets, and even playing cards, explaining the opportunities of immigrating to Pennsylvania. With fear for their lives and their families, Germans, in ever increasing numbers, began to leave their war-weary homelands for the British Colonies in the far off land called America.

Some German immigration to Pennsylvania began in 1683 but the first major wave started around 1708. In order to leave their homeland it was first necessary to obtain permission from the ruling authorities. In addition, the emigrant had to pay a 10 pfenning fee (or tax) plus a manumission certificate fee of 10 pfenning or florins. And if someone left the country without the permission of His Highness (in other words, without paying the taxes), their remaining possessions would be confiscated.

For anyone to only say they emigrated because of "religious persecution" is a very narrow view of the situation. Yes, religious fervor may have precipitated the turmoil back in the 1500's but, since there were no definite resolutions after each conflict, animosities persisted, wars continued, deaths continued, and, so too, higher taxes to pay for the wars. So, in the Colonies of America, emigrants could have religious and personal freedoms.

Another important reason for emigration was that Germany was on a feudal system, which created and maintained a class structure within the society. Many individuals were unable to avoid poverty or have the ability to improve their class -- even by improvements in skill or knowledge or ambition. Many felt that the British Colony in America was a "Land of Opportunity" -- a chance to do better for their families and themselves.

After the end of the War of the Austrian Succession in 1748, Christian Meckel decided to leave his homeland. In the spring of 1749, with his wife and their three youngest children, he departed from the land of his ancestors. His oldest son, Christian, had to stay behind. The reason is not known, but the theory is that he had not yet fulfilled a military obligation. German records show that before Christian, Sr. was given permission to emigrate, the son had to fulfill a legal obligation. German authorities insisted that Christian Jr's share of his father's estate be retained and invested for him. Records in America indicate that he served for seven years in the German military.

The decision could not have been easy -- wanting to make a better life for his children but leaving the familiarity of family, neighbors, and friends. They knew their lifestyle would not be the same, but was it going to be better -- or worse? Uncertain of the future but positive that it could not be much worse, they could only place their trust and hope in something, anything, different from the current situation.

Beginning of the Journey Emigration

Christian Meckel and family needed to travel to Rotterdam in the Netherlands. To get there, they would have taken a riverboat down the long Rhine River from the town of Bingen. Along this river route they would have been detained at each of over twenty customhouses, sometimes for extended periods of time. Ten of these customhouses alone were on the stretch between Mainz and Koblenz - about sixty miles. Each delay would cost the travelers additional money for provisions and accommodations—and taxes for the customhouse. This river portion of the trip could take from two to six weeks. Along the way they would have passed many old towns, some built prior to 400 BC by the Celts, and others, ancient Roman

landmarks and medieval towns.

In Rotterdam they would have encountered another delay in the journey, this time for emigration approvals and for the arrival of an ocean-going ship. This year, 1749, there were many ships going to America, more than any other year between 1723 and 1800. Twenty-one ships made it to Philadelphia in 1749. There were many emigrants now willing and able to leave the lands of their ancestors. Our Christian Meckel family sailed from Rotterdam on the ship *Isaac* to the town of Cowes, on the Isle of Wight in southern England, about 280 miles away. Along the way in this English Channel could be seen England on the starboard side with the city of Dover and its white cliffs. While on the port side, in the distance, would be the coast of France. There was another delay at Cowes for favorable winds and for customs

house clearance (every territory wanted to get whatever they could from these departing emigrants – much like today's city taxes on hotel rooms and airport landing fees). This was the last view of their European homeland before an ocean voyage that could take from eight to twelve weeks to complete.

Many ships were overcrowded and lacked any form of privacy. To maintain the many passengers with the proper amount of food and water required more provisions than the ship could carry, so the food and water was of extremely poor quality and had to be rationed carefully. This lack of correct nutrition led to many physical

ailments - dysentery, scurvy - while the lack of sanitary conditions led to diseases - typhoid, smallpox, spotted fever, etc. Some, especially young children and the elderly, did not survive this portion of the trip.

Aboard ship, there would be many new experiences for Christian and his family. While sailing on the ocean they would have observed strange fish. Swine fish (porpoises whose faces resembled pigs) would follow the ships along with great schools of dolphin and swarms of flying fish. Whales were very plentiful. Many different kinds of birds like sea swallows, sea gulls and albatross would have been of interest to these inland people. They also would have encountered nature's changing moods – from the calm of no wind at all to violent thunderstorms; calm flat seas to mountainous furious waves; chilling dense fogs to blistering hot sunshine. Although it would be a relief from "ship fever" (seasickness), it must have been emotionally depressing when there was a lack of wind because they would get the feeling of going nowhere. And when the ocean was raging, they would fear for their lives from the sinking of the ship - this hollow, little cork bobbing on a vast and violent sea.

A sailing ship at that time would only make the ocean journey once a year, usually leaving Europe in June at the earliest. Immigrant ships would start arriving at Philadelphia around late

August and continue through until early December. The five individuals of the Christian Meckel family were part of 206 passengers for this trip of the *Isaac* arriving in Philadelphia on September 27, 1749.

This was the only year the *Isaac* ever made the passage.

*****insert map of Delaware River*****-----

Immigration

On arrival of the coast of America, a new pilot would come on-board to safely guide the ship into the Delaware Bay, then up the Delaware River and finally to Philadelphia. Here the immigrants had further delays. They had to wait a day or two aboard ship for a doctor to inspect all the passengers for infectious and communicable diseases. If health problems were found, the ship could be taken to a nearby island for quarantine. There were some sick individuals onboard the "*Isaac*" but it was not necessary for this ship to be quarantined. After the health inspection, the 79 male passengers over 16 years of age were taken to City Hall for an oath of allegiance to the King of England. Then back to the ship for tallying and paying all financial debts incurred on the trip.

Many emigrants, upon boarding the ships in Europe, had to sign agreements to pay for the various fees and costs for transportation to the new world when they arrived there. These agreements were written in English, and few of the Germans could read their own language let alone the English language. They were told verbally that if they could not pay these fees they would be required to work in bond to pay it off. Those that could pay or get a loan were released. Not everyone was able to pay for passage plus expenses to come to America. So, at this time their debts were totaled and if they owed more than they had on them, they could make arrangements with buyers to become indentured servants for a negotiated period of time, sometimes up to four years, in exchange for payment of their debts. Announcements were placed in newspapers stating the amount of people who would be "sold" at the ship. It is not known if the Meckel family was able to afford their debts or if they became indentured. Since nothing is known about them between 1749 and 1754, it is a good possibility that they

had to become indentured.

A few days after arrival and having passed all the entry requirements, immigrants would be released to the new land. It is not known if the Meckel family went directly to York County in Pennsylvania but they were living there in 1754. It would have taken about two or three days to travel by wagon the 95 miles from Philadelphia to the York area, then on horseback or on foot to a remote homesite. The Meckel family may have had to stay with some established families for a time until their own quarters could be built.

THE COLONIES

In 1700 the population of the colonies was 275,000 -by 1775 it was 2.2 million, in 1790 had almost 4 million and by 1800, 5.3 million. The Colonials before 1700 were mostly from England and they lived within 10 -20 miles of the coastline of the Atlantic Ocean. But during the 18th century people began to settle into the interior of the continent. Many were the new immigrants - Scotch, Irish, Swiss, and German - venturing into the deep woods away from the coast and into the wild frontier. By 1790, fifty percent of all the Germans in the United States lived in Pennsylvania and 33% of the population of Pennsylvania were German. A primary reason the German immigrants settled in eastern Pennsylvania was because, ever since the year 1681, this state, by law, had freedom of religion. Pennsylvania was a haven for religious and political refugees from England, Ireland, and Germany. The German immigrants to America became known as the Pennsylvania Germans - in their language "Pennsylvania Deutch" (pronounced DOYtch) - since then, commonly referred to as the "Pennsylvania Dutch".

There were two groups of Pennsylvania Dutch. One group avoided English speaking people and shunned worldly modernization, swearing of oaths, and military service. They wore plain clothes and were frugal, hardworking, productive farmers. They didn't attend "church" but some went to a "meeting hall" monthly. These were called the "Plain Folk" and included the Amish, Mennonites, Brethren and German Baptists. These sects, along with the Quakers from England, constituted about one-third of Pennsylvania's population before the Revolutionary War.

The other group of German immigrants was called the "fancy" or "Church Germans" because they did not wear plain clothes and attended church regularly. They were hard working farmers who eventually merged into the American "Melting Pot". These were primarily of the Lutheran, Moravian, Evangelical or Reformed (Calvinist) sects of the Protestant religion. About 90 percent of German immigrants belonged to this group as did our Christian Meckel family, who were members of the Lutheran Church. The Meckel family brought with them the strong belief in their religion and a great distaste of war. Because of all our forefathers' knowledge and unfortunate experiences with religious monarchs in their previous homeland, they knew that religion and politics do not go well together. So, they made certain that America's Constitution guaranteed religious freedom while keeping separate the entities of Church and State - religion apart from government. This did not mean leaving their thoughts about religion out of government, but instead meant not allowing the religious leaders to make decisions about running the government and also the government not establishing a religion.

THE NEW HOMELAND - PENNSYLVANIA

The piedmont plateau is the geological formation of the southeastern area of Pennsylvania that has rolling plains, rough uplands, low hills, irregular ridges and very fertile valleys. It extends about 150 miles west and 80 miles north of Philadelphia. It is the main agricultural area of Pennsylvania enjoying a very long growing season. In 1739, the York County area was opened for settlement and was the New Frontier of the Colonies- an untamed, sparsely populated land full of trees, birds, and wild animals. In 1727 the estimated population of Pennsylvania was 10,000 - 15,000 and, by 1750, it was 70,000 - 80,000. York County was the first "proving ground" for a westward flow of people that eventually stopped at the Pacific Ocean a century and a half later. Some say many Germans settled in this area because it resembled their Rhineland home in the Palatinate.

Pennsylvania got its name from William Penn and "Sylvania" meaning woodland, which is only partly descriptive. The trees were oak, maple, ash, elm, and sycamore and were extremely dense and very large - literally an American jungle. A story at that time was that a squirrel could travel from tree to tree from the Maryland border to Lake Erie without ever touching the ground.

In 1683, 100% of Pennsylvania was wooded. Currently, 60% is still wooded although the only original stand of trees is in Cooks Forest State Park in Clarion County.

The dense woodland had to be cleared away in order to build a small cabin and to plant crops. After the trees were cut down, the early farmers would leave the stumps in the ground and plant crops around and between them. The Germans, being a little more meticulous, would remove the stumps completely. (Anyone who has ever removed a large tree stump by hand can appreciate the very hard work this entails.) The soil was fertile and rich in nutrients after centuries of accumulating leaves and other forest vegetation. The early settlers cleared these lands by using axes and handsaws to cut down the trees, then used yokes of oxen to haul the logs. This was their biggest and most difficult of tasks.

They used the logs to build one-room cabins. The logs would be stacked and overlapped to form four walls with one door and maybe a few small windows (in reality, small holes covered with thin animal skins or greased paper). Any large, unwanted gaps between the logs would be packed with flat fieldstones and clay. The pitched roof would be either thatch or wood shingles. As for size, in the new town of York (then referred to as Little York), settlers were given one year after signing a contract to erect "...a substantial dwelling of 16 feet square at least..." or 256 square feet of living space for an entire family.



The German immigrants would have small houses but great distinctive, capacious barns, often 100 feet by 40 feet. The protection of their livestock and safe storage of hay, grain, silage and equipment was of the utmost priority in

order to survive the cold winters. They knew from experience that their livestock, if kept warm, required less food than when exposed to the cold. They cooked and heated the house with a stove, not a fireplace like other colonials. The stove had three sides inside the cabin and one with a door outside. Ben Franklin had observed this concept and used it to design his Franklin Stove in 1744.

The 1762 Will of Christian Meckel written in his native German script.

1762
 Im Namen Gottes des Vaters und Sohns
 des heiligen Geistes Amen
 Ich Christian Meckel
 meine Ehefrau Christiane soll haben
 an Geld den dritten Teil von
 Pfennigen und den dritten Teil
 von den fruchtigen Feldern
 soll sie sich selbst besorgen
 und ihre Kost mit einem
 Lot sie soll auch haben ein
 mit gebraucht hat für
 und zwei Blätter ein
 Bigel Eisen und einen
 soll sie haben sechs
 und fünfzig
 und fünfzig
 und fünfzig

und ein
 ich
 und einen
 Christian Meckel
 Christian Meckel
 Christian Meckel

Austria and they are of all trades except those of gentleman, idler and tramp" and their **YORK**

York County

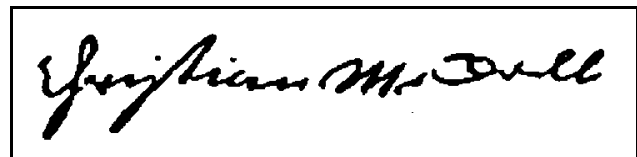
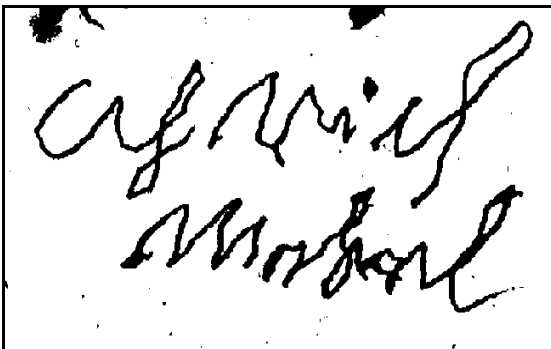
The York Territory was released for settlement by a treaty with the Native American Indians in 1736. In 1749, the York County area officially became a new county having been formed out of the very large Lancaster County by the descendants of William Penn. The idea was to encourage land settlement at very favorable terms, which would encourage rapid expansion to these western frontiers. An immigrant could buy 100 acres of land for fifteen Pounds, and the payment of rent to the proprietor was 50 pence (4 Shillings 2 pence or about 1/5 Pound) per 100 acres, per year until 1776.

The county seat of York County is the city of York. Just southwest of York, the Codorus Creek forms and drains through York in a northeasterly direction and into the 450 mile long Susquehanna River which, in turn, flows South into Chesapeake Bay a few dozen miles downstream.

Originally, Pennsylvania had three counties, and by 1754 there were 8 counties, by 1780 - 11 counties and now there are 67 counties. Just north and west of York County was Cumberland County. When Cumberland County was formed in 1750, the proprietaries, descendants of William Penn, gave instructions to their agents to encourage the immigration of the Scotch-Irish to Cumberland County but to relegate the Germans to York County. The reason given was that when these two nationalities had earlier settled in close proximity in nearby Lancaster County, they were generally in a chronic broil, quarreled, and created serious riots at elections. Their political views were very opposite from each other. These Scotch-Irish had been driven out of Ireland to Scotland and eventually immigrated to America. As a group, they were thrifty, prudent, independent, but also very aggressive, belligerent, and were the least respectful toward the Native American Indians. A description of these Scotch-Irish at the time was "*First to start, Last to quit*".

The Germans, as a whole, were honest, trustworthy and fair dealing. They became successful farmers because of many factors, one being knowledge of the need for fertilizing and crop rotation. Another was that they chose the best area for having a farm. The soil was so fertile that they produced more than needed for their own consumption. After 1730, Pennsylvania was the most productive mixed-farm region in America producing grain, livestock, orchard and garden produce, flax and hemp. In 1750 they were selling the excess to the southern colonies by shipping them down the Susquehanna River.

Since about 1750 the Germans of Pennsylvania had built the Conestoga wagon in Lancaster and York Counties using the wood from the plentiful trees they cut down to clear the land. These wagons were very ruggedly built and proved to be very



On the left is the 1762 signature of "Christ Meckel" which was on his Last Will & Testament. On the right is his son's 1754 signature ("Christian Meckell") when he immigrated. Both are written in German script.

durable, able to haul 3-4 tons. Bow shaped so they could float when crossing streams and rivers, these wagons contributed to America's migration to the newer Northwest Territories, later to become Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin. To complement this heavy wagon the Germans were also noted for breeding fine draft horses.

It had been said at that time that the Germans "*come from every part of Germany and Austria and they are of all trades except those of gentleman, idler and tramp*" and their distinguishing characteristics were industry, economy, honesty and morality.

Roads were few and far between, and were either dusty dirt paths or muddy quagmires depending on the weather. There were no bridges, so, creeks and streams were forded and rivers were crossed by ferry. Travel was exceedingly slow. The first road wide enough for wagon travel into the area was the Old York Road built between 1711 and 1722. Another road laid out in 1739 was the Monocacy road - the Great Wagon Road - an old Indian path and trader's route proceeding southwesterly from Wrightsville past York site, Hanover site and into Maryland and Virginia. The fledgling town of York had 2 churches and 47 houses in 1751. In 1742 a road had been laid out from York in a westerly direction. On this road, in 1786, James Getty laid out the town of Gettysburg at a major crossroad and by 1795 had thirty-three dwellings. The first stone turnpike in Pennsylvania, the Lancaster Pike was completed in 1794 but only stretched from Philadelphia to Lancaster.

On the 2nd day of September 1752 the Christian Meckel family went to bed as they always had done. When they awoke the next morning it was September 14. They had not been asleep for eleven days, but the calendar had changed. Great Britain and its American Colonies had switched to the Gregorian calendar, compensating for many years of inaccuracies of the previous Julian Calendar. That inaccuracy since 45 BC had accumulated to eleven days by 1752. After this year a person's date of birth also changed if they were born prior to 1752. For example, George Washington was actually born on February 11, 1732 (Julian calendar) but after 1752 that date was adjusted by eleven days to February 22, 1732.

Second Wife of Christian Sr.

Sometime between 1749 and 1754, the wife of Christian Meckel died. Her actual name has not yet been located. In 1754 the record shows that he married Christina Apollonia Meder. Christina and Christian had one child, Henry, who did not survive to adulthood.

Death of Christian Meckel, Sr. 1764

In 1762, the patriarch of the family, Christian Meckel, made his Last Will and Testament, just a few days after his youngest son, Henry, had died. Written in his native German language and script by someone else, it was later translated into English for the British courts. His will can give us some insight into life and living in the 18th century. (Ed.- forgive the spellings, the translator did not spell correctly, but I just could not edit the spelling and language of yesteryear.)

"1762 the 17th December

In the name of God the father, God the Son and God the holy Gost. Christian Meckel his will is that his wife Christina shall Have thirty pound in mony, the thirth part of the grain on the Garret and likwisse the thirth part of the Grain in the fild. she is to keep her Bed and her Chest with the Linnen which she Brought with her. Likwisse her pewter which she had and Brought two Bassons two Disches one Little Iron pan one Box Iron and one Iron Ladle and her spinning wheel. she shall Likwisse have six pound of flax and she shall have Next Year the thirth part of the meat killed. and four Bushels of Appels and a quarter of an acre with flax. Likwisse six pewter spoons and one Tub "

(There may have been more pages to this will since it ends abruptly and does not name the executor or children. If there were other pages, they are lost to history.)

By law, a one-third portion of an estate was allotted to the widow and was called the *dower third* or *Dower by Common Law*. The remainder was divided and apportioned to the children. The above will included some additions to this "dower third". It is interesting to note the great value they placed on some seemingly common items - two dishes, one iron ladle, one little iron pan or four bushels of apples. These items must have been very valuable and important to them - enough to mention in one's last will. The sum of Thirty Pounds (British)(equivalent to 45 Pennsylvania Pounds) at that time could buy approximately 200 acres of land. This will was processed in York County court in July of 1764, a year and a half after it was made out. Christian may have decided to write it because his five-year-old son, Henry, had just died four days before. It is not known how old Christian was when he died but he was probably about 60 years old.

Included with his will was an "Appraisement of all and singular the Goods and Chattles of Christian Meckel". Here are some of the items he owned: one cow and two hogs; 40 bushels of Rye, 4 1/2 bushels of Indian corn and 20 bushels of wheat; a cloak, a jacket, a coat, a pair of bridches (sic), a hat, an under jacket, a pair of stockings, 2 capes, 4 shirts, an old bed, an ax and a hatchet, a dung fork, hoe and spade, an iron pot, 2 pans, six spoons, two pewter dishes, a half dozen pewter spoons, a sack, an iron stove, 3 plates and a tea cup, 6 bread baskets, a churn, 5 books, a knife, flax seed.

Concerning money, when he died Christian Meckel had 13 Pounds 10 shillings (\$35.91 approx. dollar value in 1800) in cash in the house and was owed 75 Pounds (\$195.50) by three other individuals for a total of 88 Pounds 10 shillings (\$231.41). This may not seem like much today, but back then, for 30 pounds (\$79.80), a person could either buy 10 cows, or 10 iron stoves, or 240 bushels of rye, or 200 bushels of wheat, or as stated earlier, 200 acres of land.

Illiteracy was common at that time. It is known that about 15 percent of the men on the ship *Isaac* could not read or write because they marked their name on the immigration list with an X or a +. An even higher percentage - if not most - of the women were illiterate. The wife of

Christian signed her will with an **X**, indicating her lack of writing abilities. Because his personal signature is on the passenger list and also his will, we may deduce that Christian Meckel could read and write, although probably only in the German language. His son also signed his name in the same German script as his father. Just a few years later, the new country's Founding Fathers at the Constitutional Convention had to choose which language - English or German - was to be used for the new country. English won by only one vote. Today we very well could have been speaking German as America's national language!

The MECKEL Surname Origin

The surname Meckel is a very old Germanic name and has a complex derivation. As we know, many surnames came from town or locale names, from occupations or from an individual's skills. But also, the Germanic people were known as a warlike people, a reputation surely acquired from defending their territories since long before the battle of Teutoburger Forest in 9 AD. Therefore, many of their surnames often referred to war, weapons, victories, armies, etc. From two ancient German words - "Macht" meaning "power" and "Hilti" meaning "battle" - when combined and through infinitely complicated sound shifts in the German language, evolved into "Mechtild" which later became "Meckel". (The female name "Matilda" also is derived from these two German words.) All this probably happened before the 13th century according to George F. Jones in his book "German-American Names". So, "Meckel" could mean "Powerbattle" or "Battlepower" or "Mighty battler" or something of that nature.

Meckel to Meckley

In Early America, the Meckel family name was changing, as were many surnames of immigrants. Some changed immediately as they entered the new country while others went through an evolutionary change. The Meckel name seems to have evolved over a 30 - 50 year period beginning about 1760. The first generation of American-born Meckel's were having their name written in the following variations - Meckle, Meckele, Mackill, Meckley, Meckly, Mackle, Makel, Mackly, Mackley, McLey. All these various spellings were taken from our ancestor's property records, census reports, church records, newspaper ads, wills and tax rolls in York and Adams Counties.

The first question is how the name was pronounced. In some German dialects, some words with the letter "e" within a word are pronounced "ay" as in the English word "make". An example are the German words "dem" and "der" which sound like "daym" and "dayr" in one German dialect. Here are other German words (with pronunciation) and [translation] - Leben (LAY-ben) [life]; Paket(pa-KAYT) [package]; Regen(RAY-gen) [rain]; lesen(LAY-zen) [to read];

Regel(RAY-gel) [rule]; reden(RAY-den) [to talk]; Amerika(ah-MAY-ri-ka) [America]; Erdbeere (AYRT-bay-reh) [strawberry]; gehen(GAY-en) [to go]; geben(GAY-ben) [to give]; Nebel(NAY-bel) [fog]; Leder(LAY-der) [leather]. So, the first "e" in Meckel would have made the pronunciation "MAYK-el" or "MAY-ke". In the 1790 Pennsylvania census, Christian's last name was written "Mackill" - that's the way the census taker thought it sounded.

The next question is how it changed from Meckel to Meckley. We can only take a reasonable guess. At this time, settlers came from many different countries with many different languages and different ways of pronouncing and writing the different syllables. Even today we have problems with spelling a persons' name when only hearing it spoken. Occasionally, because of the different languages in the new country, dialectical endings were transposed or dropped entirely. These included -el, -le, -li, -ly, and -lin. Examples of these variations would be Meckel, Meckle, Meckli, Meckly, Mecklin or Meck. "Meck" is the only spelling of our Meckley name that has not been observed. In the German language, when a reference is made about a female of the family they usually add the suffix "in" to the name. In one church record a female daughter was referred to as "Anna Maria Mecklin" (pronounced "meck-lin" or "Mayk-lin") which would be the feminine spelling of Meckel.

If you were *verbally* asked now to spell the name MAYKEL, it would be natural to *phonetically* spell it either MACKEL, MACKLE, MAYCKEL, MAYCKLE, MAKEL, MAKLE or possibly something different. The point here is to show how a German would pronounce a word that ended in "E". What varies from English is that the "e" on the end of a German word is **always** pronounced as "EH" (like a short "a"). If a Scotch-Irish, or English official wrote the word as MACKLE or MECKLE, it would be pronounced in German as MAYK-leh. This could have been the way it evolved with an "ley" on the end. An interesting observation is a document called an "Indenture" made in 1791. It is a transfer of ownership from a land owner to another person. Christian Meckel (b.c. 1733 and called "Sr." in this document) was selling land to his son, Christian, Jun. (b. 1767). This document was transcribed (copied) into the court records by a Recorder. This Recorder, a Mr. Barnitz, copied everything on the document including the signatures of the witnesses and the Meckel's. One of the witnesses was Christian's son, Henry Meckel. The interesting part of the transcription is that the Recorder copied the signatures the way they were signed - Henry and Christian signed in German Script which is much different than English Script. The point here is that Christian and Henry signed their name "Meckele" (in 4 different places). Christian's wife could not write, so, she "made her mark" - an "X" - and the person writing the document spelled her name "Catherine Meckel". Within the body or legal description of the document the Recorder spelled the names "Meckel". This seems to imply that Christian and his son, Henry, probably were known as "Meckele" ("MAYK-el-eh").

In Germany and Austria, many people acquired nicknames or pet names as a sign of respect, recognition or endearment. For example the given name - Martin - could have a nickname of Martinlein or Martele (pronounced Mar-tin-line and Mar-tel-eh). "Marte" is the name for Martin and "lein" or "le" is an endearing name for the family. Some American church records show our surname spelled "Meckele" which, in German, would be pronounced MAYK-el-eh.

So, to conclude, Meckel (MAYK-el) would have evolved to Meckele, then to Meckle (pronounced MAYK-leh) - then to Meckley (MAYK-ley).

Meckley to Mackley

When the western part of York County became Adams County in 1800, family members living in Adams County were using the name *spelling* of Mackley and the ones living in York County used Meckley. Before 1800, the western one-third of York County (which was to become Adams County) was inhabited and settled mostly by Scotch-Irish while the eastern

two-thirds was mostly German. These two nationalities had quite different political views with feuding happening as early as 1750. In order to somewhat separate these two feuding groups, in 1800 the Pennsylvania legislature decided to create Adams County out of that western portion of York County. In the 1790's, one ancestor who lived in the area that was to become Adams County was John Mackley and his wife Deborah. Three different times before 1800, his name was spelled Mackley in the census and in newspapers. One reason for the "A" may be attributed to the populations' origins (Scotch-Irish) along with the German pronunciation. York County Germans naturally may have known to spell Meckley and Meckel with an "e". But in Adams County, when the Scotch-Irish heard the name Meckley pronounced like MAYK-ley, they may have associated the spelling as McLey, MacKley or MacLey and wrote it as Mackley, which was the way the Scotch-Irish would have spelled it in their ancestral homeland. The Meckley family in Adams County may have gone along with this spelling, probably because they were then a minority and may not have learned to read or write in the English language. (There are unrelated "Mackley" families in America whose ancestors had come from Great Britain.)

I believe the correct Germanic pronunciation of Meckley was MAYK-ley because, if you speak it that way, someone who would be writing it on census records would spell it Mackley. Another interesting example of this transformation is the German surnames Ness, Getz, Becker and Betz, which changed in spelling to Nace, Gates, Baker and Bates, but did not change in pronunciation. Another example is the name Heche (currently an actress' surname) that is pronounced Haysh. I have considered many ways someone could possibly interpret the different pronunciations in order to end up with that spelling and this seems to be the only plausible answer. So, here is the way the name would have progressively changed (with pronunciations):

Macht + Hilti (Mockt hill-tee)	became	Mechtild (MAYK-tild)	Circa 1200 a.d.
Mechtild	became	Meckel (MAYK-el)	Before 1700
Meckel	became	Meckley (MAYK-ley)	1754-1800
Meckley	became	Mackley (MAYK-ley)	spelling change 1785-1795
Mackley (long A)	became	Mackley (short A)	After 1785

THE MECKEL-to-MECKLEY-to-MACKLEY CONNECTION 1800-1806

It is a long story to tell you how it is known that Christian Meckel is the ancestor of the Mackley's and Meckleys. To begin, we need to go ahead in time in this story to the 1840's in Nauvoo, Illinois.

(First evidence) -- Two Mackley brothers and two sisters, children of John and Deborah Mackley of Adams County, PA, moved to Medina, Ohio in the 1820's and became some of the earliest members of the Mormon Church in the 1830's when it was in its infancy near Cleveland, Ohio. They followed the Mormon leaders to Missouri, then to Illinois, Iowa and eventually to Salt Lake City. In 1840, 1841, and 1842, while in Nauvoo, Illinois, they participated in the Church rite called "Baptisms for the Dead" (by Proxy) - the baptizing of departed relatives and friends into the church. (The Mormon faith involves the keeping of certain ancestral information.) When in Nauvoo, one of these Mormon followers, Isabella Mackley, baptized her "*grandparents Christopher and Catherine Mackley*". Now, she probably had called her grandfather "Grandpa Christ" (rhymes with twist) and later may have assumed his full name was "Christopher". (Christian Meckel did sign his will as "Christ" and an 1800 Census entry stated his name as Christopher!). One Mormon brother, Jeremiah Mackley, baptized an uncle - *John Winter* - and an aunt - *Barbara Mackley*.

(Second evidence) -- In an 1806 will of a "*...Catarina Meckle, widow of Christian Meckle of Codorus Township in York County*" are mentioned her children as follows:

"...oldest daughter Barbara Meckle, single woman..." "...other daughter Margreta Meckle, also single woman..." and her sons "...John Meckle, Christian Meckle, Jacob Meckle, Henry Meckle, George Meckle, Michael Meckle... and to Catarina, now the wife of John Winter and to Elizabeth, now the wife of John Rudisel and to Anna Maria, now the wife of Jacob Stambach..."

(Third evidence) -- Earlier, in 1800 there was the will of her husband, Christian Meckel of Codorus Township in the County of York. He mentions his wife "*Catherine*" and "*...son George Meckel...*" and "*...other ten children...eldest son John Meckel...Barbara, unmarried and single woman...*" along with Christian, Jacob, Henry, Catherine, Elizabeth, Michael, Anna Mary, and "*...youngest daughter, Margaret*". Also noted in the assets section was mentioned "*...book debts by Henry Meckel, by John Winter, by John Rudisil, by Christian Meckel*". (This shows that he may have loaned money to his sons and son-in-laws as an advance on their inheritance.)

(In Addition) When talking (in year 2000) with Leonard Mackley in Nebraska (before I told him of the name change), he stated that his grandmother had told him that the Mackley name was previously Mackel.

(Conclusion) -- The key names here are John Winter, husband of Catherine (Catarina) and the other is Barbara (who never married). These two wills along with the statements in the "Baptism of the Dead" show the connection of the Mormon MACKLEY'S to the Meckel family. Isabella Mackley's grandparents were Christian Jr. and Catherine Meckel, their aunt was Barbara Meckel and their uncle was John Winter. Notice that here also is the proof of a name evolution from MECKEL to MECKLE to MACKLEY. By the way, those Mormon MACKLEYs originated in Adams County, Pennsylvania. (Many thanks go to Kathy (Mackley) Nichols for this excellent Mormon research.)

The Descendant Families of Christian Meckel Sr.

The 1764-1787 Generation

Christian Jr. – Catherine -- William – Anna Maria -- Henry

- **Christian Meckel, Junior, and Family**

Christian Meckel Sr. had four children born in the Palatinate and one born in America. His oldest child was Christian Jr. who had to stay behind when his parents and other children emigrated, but eventually he came to America arriving at Philadelphia on September 30, 1754 on the ship *Edinburg*. This was the same year that the British officer, Colonel George Washington, surrendered Fort Necessity to the French in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

By 1783 Christian Jr. and his wife, [Anna-Maria] Catharina had eleven children. (Ed.- he didn't use the "Jr." name but this writer added it to differentiate him from his father and other namesakes). They owned 70 - 80 acres, 2 horses, 4 cattle, a gristmill, a sawmill and an oil mill. Research in the tax records of Shrewsbury Township in York County shows that his name was spelled many different ways - Michley, Mickly, Mackley, Meckley and Makly- and on property transactions has also been spelled as Meckle.

They spent most of their day working the land and the mills, and raising children. About the only reason they would interrupt their work and chores would be to go to church. We know that on October 11, 1779 Christian Jr. was a witness at the christening of Johann Eberhard, son of Johann and Catharina Eberhard in Friedensaal Lutheran Church. (Also known as White Church and Schuster's Church having initially been formed in the 1750's in Springfield Twp.) This Church was where most of Christian's children were baptized between 1774 and 1785. The following are Christian Jr's children, all first generation American-born.

1 The first child of Christian Meckley Jr. was John, born in 1765 and raised in York County. In about 1786 he married Deborah Reed, who was said to be of Irish ancestry. It was unusual, but not uncommon, at that time for a German descendant to marry someone of another nationality. Deborah's mother, Isabella (Reed) McQueen, and step-father, Josiah McQueen, had bought a gristmill about 1782 and moved from Lancaster County to York Township in York County. This gristmill happened to be adjoining the property of Michael Hengst, uncle to John Mackley. Michael Hengst also had a gristmill as did John Mackley's father, Christian, in Codorus Township. John may have been visiting his uncle, or possibly worked for him, when he met Deborah. Before 1790 John and Deborah moved to the northwest area



of York County that would soon become Adams County. He must have learned much from his father because he owned 450-500 acres and a sawmill "in excellent order" on the Conawago River. This property, his "Plantation" as he called it, had two large square log dwelling houses, a barn, and a road wagon with two pair of oxen, cows and calves and a desk with drawers. Knowledge of his possessions came from newspaper advertisements in 1794 and again in 1798 in which he offered this property for sale. John's surname in these ads and in census reports is "Mackley" and his descendants today use this spelling. Another advertisement placed in the Adams Centinel newspaper on

September 17, 1817 stated: "Valuable Grist or Paper Mill Seat or any other kind of Water Works with 18 feet of head and fall, situated on Conowago Creek, in Franklin and Menallen townships, Adams county, three quarters mile from John Arendt's Tavern, on the Road leading from Pine Grove to Gettysburg, with a LOT of 12 acres of land whereof 7 are excellent timothy meadow clear -- remainder is well covered with Timber. The improvements are a new two-story log dwelling-house, with a back shed to it...for terms of sale, apply to the subscriber living on the Premises. Signed John Mackley. "

John and his wife Deborah had seven children. It is family lore that he and his wife both died on the same day - September 24, 1833 - for reasons unknown. They both would have been about 68 years old.

- 1 Christian Jr's next child was a daughter, **Barbara**, born about 1766. She was a single woman her entire life and may have been the care-giving daughter for her aging parents.
- 2 His next child was **Christian III** born circa 1767. Christian III and his wife, Eva (Ziegler), had five sons, Samuel, George, David, John, and Christian IV. At some time after their son Samuel was married, Samuel moved and lived in Adams County. From that time, Samuel and his descendants used the surname "Mackley" while most of his brothers used the surname "Meckley".
- 3 The fourth child of Christian Meckley Jr. was **Jacob** Meckley born in 1770. On some of the very early baptismal records his surname was spelled Meckel and Meckele. About 1797 he married Margaret Zell and moved to the Adams County area. They had eight children and all his descendants were known as Mackley's.
- 5 The fifth child of Christian Meckley, Jr. was **Henry** Meckley born in 1772. His christening name was Johann Heinrich Meckley. He was married to a woman named Catherine and in 1800 he was listed in the census living in Manheim Township of York County with one son (George) and one daughter, both under 10 years old. Sometime around 1801 something happened that made him a "lunatic" and the court appointed trustees to care for his estate. Nothing has been located that shows he was living after 1810.
- 6 The sixth child of Christian Meckley Jr. was **Catherine** Meckley born 1774. Her baptized name was Maria Catharina Meckele, which was witnessed by Michael and Maria (Catherine Meckel) Hengst, her aunt and uncle. She married John Winter (see Mormon "Baptism of the Dead") and had 10 children. Some of their descendants used the name "Winters".
- 7 The seventh child was **George** Meckley born in 1776, married Catherine Ernst about 1804. They had six children, three were male, of which two families' descendants used "Mackley", the other using "Meckley".
- 8 Christian Meckley Jr. next had a daughter, **Elizabeth**, in 1778. She was baptized with the name of Elisabeth Meckle. Elizabeth married John Rudisill and they had six children.
- 9 Their next child was a son, **Michael** Meckley, born in 1781. He was baptized with the name John Michael Meckele and was witnessed by his uncle, Michael Hengst. He married Anna Maria Wehrly in 1804 and together they had five children. All his descendants were known as "Meckley".
- 10 The tenth child of Christian Jr. was **Anna Maria** Eva Meckley b.1783 and baptised with the name Maria Eva Meckele with the witness being her aunt, Mary Catharina Hengst, wife of Michael. Anna Maria married Jacob Stambaugh and had nine children. This family moved to Ohio in 1835 and eventually to Illinois about 1839. Their descendants now live in Iowa, Texas, California, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Kansas.
- 11 Christian Jr.'s eleventh and last child was **Margaret** Meckley b. 1785 and baptized

as Margaret Meckele, which was witnessed by cousin Margaret Hengst, daughter of Michael and Catherine Hengst. Margaret never married and in her will she mentioned "...*Jacob Rudisill, son of her sister...*" Elizabeth and John Rudisill.

• **Catherine Meckel**

Christian Sr.'s oldest daughter was [Maria Catharina] Catherine Meckel who married Michael Hengst about 1755 and had many descendants. Michael Hengst (probably pronounced "HAYNGST") was born in 1717 and arrived in Philadelphia from Germany on the ship "Ann" in 1749, only a few days after the Meckel family. His name is unique in spelling and somewhat rare in colonial days (it translates to "Stallion"). Michael was a leader in the Revolutionary War. He owned and ran a grist mill in York County. Catherine and Michael had ten children, four boys and six girls. Michael and Catherine were active in their church, Christ Lutheran Church in Windsor Township of York County, and were witnesses at many baptisms of relatives. (A descendant, also named Michael Hengst, has traced most of the lineage of Catherine and Michael locating information on over 8000 descendants and spouses.) Following are Michael and Catherine's children:

1. **Catherine** Hengst was the first-born in 1756. She married George Braun in 1779 and they had two daughters. Their name later was spelled Brown.
2. **Christian** Hengst was born in 1758 but died in 1761.
3. **Anna Margaret I** Hengst was born in 1760 but also died before 1761 probably from a disease.
4. **Anna Margaret II** Hengst was born in 1761, married Godfrey Kleindienst, and died between April and July of 1801. Her last child was born on April 24, 1801 and Anna Margaret probably died shortly afterward. Anna Margaret and Godfrey had seven children.
5. **Eve Maria** Hengst was born about 1763 and married George Philip Schultz before 1805. In 1805, they were living in Huntingdon County which part of became Blair Co. Have not located information about her descendants.
6. **Jacob** Hengst was born in 1765, married Mary (or Maria) Switzer before 1789 and had eleven children. Jacob died in 1848 at age of about 83 years. Mary lived to the age of 94 years.
7. **Michael** Hengst was born in 1771, married Juliana Harbaugh and had thirteen children.
8. **Elizabeth** Hengst was born in 1775, married Johan George Wolf, and they had three children.
9. **John** Hengst was born in January of 1777 but died sometime before 1801.

• **William Meckel**

We know that Christian Sr. had a total of four children in the Electoral Palatinate of Germany and that he emigrated with three of them. Besides Christian, Jr. and Catherine, there was **William**. No personal information has been found about William except that he received one-seventh of his brother-in-law's - Michael Hengst – estate for his "maintenance and preservation" for the rest of his life. In 1802, he was living in Michael's house when Michael died. As far as we know, William never married or had any children and may have been incapable of making a living for himself. For some unknown reason, Michael felt indebted enough to William to give him a share of his estate. It could be speculated that William might have been physically or mentally disabled (either naturally or during the Revolutionary War).

• **Anna Maria Meckel**

The third immigrant child of Christian Sr. may have been **Anna or Anna Maria** who married Jacob Stine (Stein). There are two reasons she is thought to be a descendant of Christian

Sr. First, in Christian Sr.'s will, a Jacob Stine is mentioned in the Inventory of Estate under the "Notes Due" heading – meaning that Christian loaned Jacob some money - which was frequently done for sons and daughters. (It is common even today where an elderly parent gives the children money as an advance on their inheritance.) The second reason is that Christian Jr. and Catherine Meckel were sponsors for the baptism of one of Jacob and Anna Maria's children – a very common custom of having a relative be godparents - and who better than her own brother. So, this may only be circumstantial evidence but enough to conclude, by about a 50% probability, that Anna Stine is related.

- **Henry Meckel**

After Christian Meckel Sr. remarried in 1754 to Christina Apollonia Meder, they had a son, **Henry**, born in 1757. Henry died as a young boy in 1762 from convulsive fits (now known as Epilepsy). Whether from grief or from fear of his own demise, a few days after Henry's death, Christian Sr. made out his own Last Will & Testament.

LIFE AND LIVING BEFORE 1800

Work on the farm occupied most of the Meckel's time, except Sunday's when they were very active in the church. Starting in the 1740's many Lutheran or Reformed Churches were formed in York County - 35 years before the first Catholic Church and 45 years before a Presbyterian Church. Besides religious services, church activities such as picnics were also main social events for the community.

In many of the Lutheran Churches, only German was spoken. In the Canadochly Lutheran and Reformed Congregation of Lower Windsor Township of York County, the very first time the service was spoken in English was in 1844.

Life was extremely hard and physical compared to today's living standards. Most everything was done manually, although horses were used for transportation and oxen used for plowing. Trees were felled with axes and saws. Almost everything produced was "handmade". Blacksmiths heated and hammered iron to shape it into useful tools and fasteners. Forges were the foundries where many items were cast from molten iron like tools, cooking pots, stoves etc. The first forge in the York area was Codorus Furnace in 1765 that produced cannon iron and balls during the Revolutionary War. The owner, James Smith, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. (The furnace is still standing today.)

In the 18th century, 90% of the male population worked in the agriculture, lumbering and fishing industries. The total population of the "United States of America" in 1790 was 3,929,214 with New York City having 33,131, Philadelphia -the capital of the U.S. - having 28,522 and Boston 18,320. In 1789, the average life expectancy was 34.5 years for males and 36.5 years for females. Some of the hazards they had to contend with were deep snow, flooding, cloudbursts, forest fires, deer flies, mosquitoes, snakes, bear and wolves, besides all the diseases involved with these. Sometimes the wild animals were rabid and extreme care was taken to avoid getting bitten by them.

Saw mills used natural waterpower to shape tree trunks into boards, as did the gristmills to grind the grain into flour. To have flour for baking they had to take their own grain to the nearest gristmill which could be miles away - except for some of the Mackley's and Hengst's who had their own mills. Many residents and neighbors would have used these gristmills, then paid for its use by giving a percentage of their milled grain to the miller.

Flax was grown, harvested and converted to linen thread on the "little" spinning wheel. Sheep's wool was carded (a combing process that aligns the fibers) and hand fed to the "big" spinning wheel and came out as thread. Almost every home had a big wheel and a little wheel

sitting in the corner. The common cloth was linsey or linsey-woolsey - the chain thread being made of linen and the filling was woolen.

Water for drinking was manually pumped or dipped from wells, or, hauled or carried from streams and springs. Firewood for cooking year-round and for heating during the cold months was hand sawed to the proper length then split by ax. They understood the different characteristics of each type of wood in order to put them to the best use. From wood they made many useful items - baskets, bowls, pans, barrels, handles, tools, furniture, toys, wagons. Some of the fabrics were woven at home although most were bought at the nearest general store or trading post. The clothing was made at home from the purchased fabrics and only rarely were they "store bought" clothes. These pioneers utilized many of the resources that surrounded them - leather from animal skins; clothes from sheep's wool and flax grown in their fields; medicine from herbs, plants and roots. For lights at night, these settlers made their own candles. They even made their own soap and buttons from bones. They would keep chickens solely for the eggs they laid, sheep for wool, cows for milk, and hogs for meat.

In the spring the ground was plowed and planted; in summer hoed, weeded and cared-for; and in the autumn the crops were harvested and stored or preserved for the long winter months. The meat and fish would be smoked, salted or dried for future use. They would grow, harvest and dry the vegetable crops such as beans, peas, oats, rye, wheat, barley, and Indian corn. Besides using the milk for drinking, they churned their own butter and made their own cheeses from the milk produced by one or two cows. A fruit cellar was built which was essentially an underground storage room that maintained a consistently cool temperature both in summer or winter. Stored in the fruit cellar would be their apples, pears, cabbage, potatoes, beans and nuts. These pioneers would trap squirrel, muskrat, raccoon, rabbit, beaver and opossum for their meat and skins. They could hunt bear, moose, deer, elk, turkey, grouse, duck, geese or swans using muskets or rifles. The German gunsmiths of Pennsylvania, as early as 1715, began making muskets with spiraling grooves on the inside of the barrel which, when fired, made the bullet spin, thereby creating better accuracy over longer distances. The German word for the verb "to groove" is "riffeln", so, these grooved muskets became known as rifles - specifically, "Pennsylvania rifles" - at that time, the very best that could be purchased. These firearms were later known as "The Kentucky Long Rifle" popularized by Pennsylvanian Daniel Boone and produced in Pennsylvania.

Money was rarely used because people would barter and trade for goods. Many tasks were done by the entire community; like house-raising and barn-raising, crop harvesting, roofing (shingle or thatch) and log rolling. They would collect pelts either individually or as a community project. As a group, usually men with rifles, they would hunt, skin and prepare the pelts, then taking them to the nearest trading post, possibly as far away as York Borough or Lancaster. These pelts would then be traded for items not available near their hometowns.

Some items they needed to buy or trade-for were: boots; shoes; knives and cooking utensils; kettles, pots and pans made of iron, brass, copper or tin; hammers, tongs and axes; lamp oil and candle wax; salt, sugar and, only rarely, spices. Hardware items had to be purchased such as nails, buckles, hinges, gunpowder, bullet molds and raw lead from which they would mold their own bullets.

The French and Indian War

One of the most influential persons in the independence movement was the famous Pennsylvanian, Benjamin Franklin. He came to York, Lancaster and Cumberland Counties in 1755 during the French and Indian War and *raised* (hired) 150 wagons with four draft horses and a driver for each wagon and 259 pack horses for use by the British and colonials under British General Braddock. Braddock failed miserably in his attempt at capturing Fort Duquesne

(Pittsburgh) and driving the French back to Canada. But the inhabitants of York County had contributed to the defense of their colony. Later, in 1758, four companies of York County militia took part in the capture of Fort Duquesne.

Speaking of Indians, before there were any white settlements, Pennsylvania was the home of an estimated 15,000 Indians. By 1776, there were only about 1000.

Border Disputes

Between 1763 and 1767, the eastern portion of the Mason-Dixon Line was surveyed. This line defined the southern boundary of Pennsylvania and was needed to settle a dispute between Pennsylvania and Maryland. The area in dispute affected the Meckel family directly because they lived in this area and were unsure if they lived in Pennsylvania or Maryland. So, when tax collectors came by, many inhabitants of this area could just tell the collector that the taxes were paid to the other state, thereby avoiding some taxes. And many a tax collector believed them!

Eventually this Mason-Dixon Line became the separator of the northern "free states" from the southern slave states. There were very few slaves in Pennsylvania because most of the people did not believe in slavery. In fact, a law was passed in 1780 stating that *any* person born in Pennsylvania was a free person. In the 1800 & 1810 census reports, to differentiate between Whites, Blacks and slaves, there were the designations of "Free White Persons", "Other Free Persons except Indians", and "Slaves". There were very few under the heading "Slaves" and the Pennsylvania Dutch did not have them. In 1790 Pennsylvania had 3,737 slaves out of a total state population of 434,373 (the second largest state in population) while Virginia had 292,627 slaves out of a total population of 747,610 people. In Codorus Township of York County in 1810 there were 1,981 people; 35 who were "Negroes" listed in the column "Other Free Persons..." and three were slaves. These three slaves were listed in the census under a David Eaton. Nearby Shrewsbury Township had 1,803 people of which 25 were "Other Free People..." and one was a slave listed under a William Marshall. (Most of the slaves in Pennsylvania, as few as there were, seemed to be owned by the English or Scotch/Irish).

Also, in 1790 York County, which included the present day Adams County, had a total population of about 36,000 of which 16,423 were English/Welsh, 15,310 were German, 3,841 were Scotch, 458 were Irish, 99 were Dutch, and 51 French.

THE REVOLUTION

*T*wenty-seven years after arriving in these colonies, the Meckel family again was living in a country at war - the War of Independence or the Revolutionary War. We know that, generally, the German immigrants were pacifists who felt a great loyalty to Pennsylvania but not to Great Britain. York County and most of Pennsylvania were considered "rebel colonies" and Anti-England. Their loyalty to Pennsylvania became a loyalty to the thirteen "united" colonies. Pennsylvania was right in the middle of the other twelve - six colonies were north or east of Pennsylvania and six colonies were south. It was Pennsylvania that held the other twelve together - both in spirit and geographic location - very much like the middle stone, the keystone, holds together a strong arch. Since that time Pennsylvania has been known as the "Keystone State". Almost 20 percent of the 25,000 population of York County in 1778 were volunteer militiamen.

In September of 1777 the Continental Congress, under threat of the advancing British, de-

cided to move the location of the colonies' central government from Philadelphia to Lancaster. Since the State of Pennsylvania's Government was also located in Lancaster, officials decided that a move across the Susquehanna River would separate the two sufficiently and the Continental Congress set up shop in the Town of York. York served as one of the first capitals for the Continental Congress between September 30, 1777 and June 27, 1778 while the British occupied Philadelphia. Congress accepted the Articles of Confederation while in session at York. There had been more signers of the Declaration of Independence from Pennsylvania than from any other state.

Grandchildren of Christian Meckel (Meckley) Jr. **The 1787-1821 Generation**

This next generation contributed to the expansion of the United States into the territories to the west. Families were relocating to the newly opened states of Ohio and Kentucky. Many of the Mackley families of Adams County moved to Ohio during the Nineteenth Century, a few eventually traveled to Utah while one moved to Maryland. One Meckley family moved to Ohio while others moved to different parts of Pennsylvania.

This generation was to witness, and be a part of, the beginning of the Industrial Revolution and the introduction of iron manufacturing. Forges, furnaces, and rolling mills were being built in York County at this time. The most active industries in the early years of the 1800's were distilling, woodcarving, fishing, and lumbering. But farming was still the way of life for most families.

The very first canal in the United States was built around the Conewago Falls in York County between 1792 and 1796. In 1809 the Columbia Bridge was built spanning the Susquehanna River between Lancaster and York Counties.

Parents now were sending their children to schools. Colleges and universities were being built. The Lutheran Theological Seminary was started in 1826 in Gettysburg and in 1832 Gettysburg College.

The children of Christian Meckley Jr. and his sister, Catherine Hengst, were having large families. There were good reasons for having many children - lack of birth control; many children died before adulthood, so, having many children insured a continuation of the family; children would help develop and expand the farm; the children would be, more-or-less, a retirement plan for the parents.

The following discusses the *grandchildren* of Christian Meckley, JR.

1 The Children of John Mackley (b.1765)

John and Deborah Mackley had seven children. Some of their children lived a wandering life while others lived and died in the same area. Some of their grandchildren also relocated to different states.

1A First born was **Joseph** Mackley in 1787 in Adams County, Pennsylvania. He married a woman named Nancy and they had eight children.

1B **Isabella** Mackley b.1788 went West with her brothers and a sister, first to the Cleveland area where she joined the newly formed Mormon Church. She went with the Mormons to Missouri, then Nauvoo, Illinois. Before following them to Salt Lake City, she decided to return to Adams County, Pennsylvania where she died at the Alms House in 1866. She never married.

- 1C Julia Ann** Mackley b.1792 moved to Ohio with her brothers, John and Jeremiah. She married William Pomeroy, probably in Utah.
- 1D Catherine** Mackley is the twin of Elizabeth born in 1794. In 1810 she married Benjamin Workman. She died between 1816 and 1821 in Adams County, PA.
- 1E Elizabeth** Mackley, the twin of Catherine, died sometime before 1841.
- 1F John** Mackley b.1796 moved to Medina County, Ohio near Cleveland about 1823 with his brother Jeremiah and two sisters. In 1834 he joined the Mormon Church and attended the dedication of the first Mormon Temple in Kirtland Ohio in 1836. He eventually went West with their migrations arriving in Salt Lake City in 1852. He was married to three different women (although not at the same time) but had no children by them. John died in Provo, Utah.
- 1G Jeremiah** Mackley was born on June 6, 1799 and married Sarah Oyler on May 9, 1822 in Franklin Twp. of Adams Co., Pennsylvania. They had eight children. In the 1830 Ohio census, Jeremiah and Sarah are listed as having three daughters under ten years old. They moved West to Medina County in Ohio with his brother John, joined the Mormon Church, and followed them to Missouri and Illinois. Jeremiah got malaria and died at the age of forty.

2 The Children of Christian Meckley III (b.c.1767)

- 2A - Samuel** b. 1794 lived in Adams County, Pennsylvania and used the name Mackley instead of his father's spelling Meckley. Samuel and his wife had six children, one being Peter Mackley whom had a large family of nine children and at one time was the "Overseer of the Poor".
- 2B - George** Meckley and his wife, Susan, had 2 children and lived in Littlestown in Adams County but were very near to York County. When his wife died George married Margaret Kunkle who had two daughters from a previous marriage.
- 2C - David** Meckley with his wife, Elizabeth had five children, three boys and two girls.
- 2D - John** Meckley married Juliann Kuchner and they had a family of seven children - four sons and three daughters.
- 2E - Christian** Meckley IV and his wife, Anna Dubbs, had five children. His youngest son had twelve children and moved to Lehigh Township in Northampton County, Pennsylvania.

4 The Children of Jacob Meckley (1770)

- 4A** The first born of Jacob was **David** Mackley, in 1798, who died before 1841.
- 4B** His second son, **Michael** b.1799, was baptized with the surname Meckel. Michael grew up, married Bridget Ashbaugh and then moved to Frederick, Maryland and raised a large Mackley family of eight children. Many of his descendants still live in Maryland and use the surname Mackley.
- 4C Hetty** Mackley was born in 1800, lived her entire life in Adams County, Pennsylvania and never married.
- 4D Jacob** Mackley was born about 1800, married Julia Ann Helm in 1833 and moved to Greenville in Darke County, Ohio. They had three children before Jacob died about 1844. Julia then married Henry Stultz in 1847 and they had four children.
- 4E Joseph** Mackley b. 1812 married Jemima Hause in 1844 and they had a large family of seven children. They lived in the town of Two Taverns near Gettysburg.
- 4F** Next born to Jacob was a daughter, **Eliza** Mackley b.1814.

4G Nancy Mackley b. 1815 married Andrew Miller in 1843 and they had two children, Noah and Clementine.

4H Jesse Mackley was the youngest, born in 1821, who married Melinda Linn in 1848. They had ten children and lived in Adams County, Pennsylvania.

6 The Children of Catherine (Meckley) Winter (b.1774)

Catherine Meckley married John Winter and had nine children - four boys and five girls. Four of their children moved to Ohio about 1830. One son, Samuel, moved to Baltimore, MD. Catherine moved to Morrow County, Ohio where she died in 1848.

6A Samuel Winter married Sarah Armstrong and had two children. After his wife died, he married Sarah Price and had 4 children. They lived in Baltimore where he was quite a prominent citizen.

6B Catherine Winter married John Rinehart.

6C John Winter married Anna Maria Eppley and they lived in York County, PA.

6D Elizabeth married Samuel Miller.

6F Jacob Winter married Elizabeth Strayer and moved to Sandusky County, Ohio where they had six children. After Elizabeth died, Jacob married Catherine Fisher in 1864 and had no children with her. Jacob owned many acres of land and was a great asset to his community.

6G Anna Maria Winter married Jacob King and had three children in Richland County, Ohio.

6H Lydia Winter married Jacob Hetrick and moved to Morrow County and then to neighboring Richland County, Ohio. They had three children.

6I Susanna Winter may have died very young because nothing else has been located about her.

6J Michael Winter married Catharine King, moved to Morrow and Richland Counties, Ohio and had five children.

7 The Children of George Meckley(1776)

7A George Mackley Jr. was born in 1807 and married a woman named Mary (aka Polly) about 1830. They had six children. After Mary died in 1855, George married Lydia Flick in 1857 and had no children with her. George and his brother John were the only children of George Meckley Sr. to use the name Mackley instead of Meckley. The reason for this was the county in which they lived, which was Adams County, adjacent to York County. Most of the Meckley families that lived in Adams County around this time used the name Mackley.

7B Lydia Meckley b.c.1804 married Peter Smith in 1820.

7C John Mackley b. 1812 married Elizabeth Sell in 1837 and had three children. The youngest was born in 1859 in Pennsylvania and in 1860 John was living in Stark County, Ohio where he died in 1886. He used the name Mackley.

7D Elizabeth Meckley b.1802 married a Daniel Dubbs and was in Stark County, Ohio in 1861. They then moved to Elkhart County in Indiana.

7E Nancy Meckley in 1828 married Samuel Bollinger.

7F Emanuel Meckley b. 1821 married Sarah Dubbs (possibly sister of above Daniel) in 1843 and they had three children.

8 The Children of Elizabeth (Meckley) Rudisill (1778)

Elizabeth and John Rudisill had six children - Elizabeth, Jacob, Magdalena, Lydia, Solomon, and John. Most of this family stayed in York County, PA.

9 The Children of Michael Meckley(1781)

9A The oldest of Michael Meckley's children was **David** Meckley b.1804, who married Mary Kesler in 1828, possibly had six children with Mary, and moved to Morrow County, Ohio in 1848 with his family. David may have been married twice. His first wife may have died young possibly from the birth of one of their children. His father, Michael, stated in his 1857 will that "from a young age" he raised his grandson, Michael. After David's father died, son Michael

lived with them in Morrow County, married and had a family. The other children of David also had families and farmed in the Troy Township area of Morrow County. Many descendants still live in the area but few with the Meckley name.

9B Samuel was the second child of Michael, born in 1806. He married a woman by the name Nancy Anna and they had six children in Codorus, York County, Pennsylvania.

9C Juliann born in 1811 married Peter Kesler.

9D Solomon b.1817 married a woman named Christiana who died before having any children. Solomon then married Julia Taylor in 1862 who had a son, George Snodgrass, from a previous marriage. Solomon and Julia had three children in Codorus, Pennsylvania.

9E Michael's youngest child was **Leah** Meckley b.1821 who married Michael Rohrbach.

10 The Children of Anna Maria (Meckley) Stambaugh (1783)

Anna married Jacob Stambaugh and they had nine children - seven boys and two girls. This family moved to Butler County, Ohio about 1835 then moved to Schuyler County, Illinois. Two of the sons moved into nearby Linn County, Iowa.

The Family Migration from Pennsylvania 1820-1880

During this period, quite a few from the Meckley/Mackley family moved out of the York and Adams Counties of Pennsylvania to the new western states. Many went to Ohio while a few others traveled to Illinois, Iowa and Utah.

List of family emigrants from Pennsylvania between 1820 and 1890:

Isabella Mackley b.1788, moved to Ohio 1825, Missouri, Illinois, then back to PA.
Julia Ann Mackley b.1792, moved to Ohio about 1825, eventually to Salt Lake City.
John Mackley b.1796, moved to Ohio about 1825, then Missouri 1835, Illinois, Utah.
Jeremiah Mackley b.1799, moved to Ohio about 1825, Missouri, and Illinois.
Michael Mackley b. 1799, moved to Frederick, Maryland
Jacob Winter b.1806, moved to Sandusky Co., Ohio about 1830.
Mary Winter King b. 1807, moved to Richland Co., Ohio about 1830.
Lydia Winter Hetrick b. 1809, moved to Richland Co., Ohio about 1830.
Michael Winter b. 1813, moved to Richland Co., Ohio about 1830.
Jacob Mackley b.1800, moved to Greenville in Darke County, Ohio about 1838.
Anna Maria Meckley Stambaugh b.1783, moved to Ohio and Illinois about 1835-8.
David Meckley b.1804, moved to Morrow County, Ohio about 1845.
Christian Meckley IV moved to Northampton County, Pennsylvania about 1855.
Jeremiah Mackley b.1833 moved to Mansfield, Ohio about 1860.
Jacob Mackley b.1838 moved to Mansfield, Ohio about 1860.
John Mackley b. 1812 moved to Stark County, Ohio about 1860.
Elizabeth Meckley Dubbs and was in Stark Co., OH in 1861, & Elkhart Co., IN in 1869.
Joseph Henry Mackley b.1844 lived in PA, Ohio in 1870, PA 1880, New York 1882, Ohio 1885
John Frank Mackley lived in Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Maryland and Ohio (1880)

There are probably many reasons why individuals and families migrated to newly formed states. One is overpopulation and land price. The two or three generations that preceded them in York and Adams Counties produced many children. Each of these offspring desired land to farm and raise their own family. When inherited farms were split-up among the descendants, the size of each parcel became smaller. If a descendant wished to buy more land from neighboring properties, the asking price became more and more expensive in comparison to the original settler's cost. Those original settlers had been offered low-priced land in order to entice them to migrate and, so too, now the newly formed western territories offered bargain-priced land. Larger tracts of land could be purchased for the same or less money than in York or Adams Counties of Pennsylvania. In some new territories all that was necessary was to place a claim on the land and it was free. In order to become a "State", these territories had to have a certain amount of residents, so, immigration was encouraged.

Another reason was the rising taxes and restrictions placed on property owners. As a community grows with population, additional services are required - legal, law enforcement, and education services. Such services were usually paid for by the community in the form of taxes. As towns form and grow, building codes and restrictions were enacted. On the new frontier, these did not exist, so living was less expensive.

Roads were being constructed, making it much easier to travel to new territories, and, when the railroads were built, even faster travel afforded them greater access to distant states. People could even return to their old homestead for short visits with their relatives who stayed behind.

Still another good reason for migrating was the War of 1812 and the Civil War. Soldiers were sent to remote and distant states, places they would never have otherwise visited. Their experiences in the wars may have given them the urge to relocate, to move away from bad memories or maybe other personal reasons.

More than likely, there was never one main rationale for relocating but many persuasions or incentives to living elsewhere. Less taxes, more land, easier transportation, fewer restrictions and the personal feeling of becoming a pioneer were good reasons for many.

A curious observation of the family's emigration in the 1800's is that a higher percentage of the MACKLEY branch of the family emigrated from Pennsylvania than the MECKLEY and HENGST branches. Also, the emigration direction was to the West and not South, North or East. A very few went to the Baltimore area, or a county or two North and West of York county, PA., but most went due West to the new states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Utah, or Kansas.

Amount of Known Descendants of Christian Meckel		
Generation Number	Descendents	Spouses
1	1	2
2	5	3
3	20	16
4	97	86
5	411	313
6	1389	864
7	2668	1438
8	2585	1541
9	2375	1311
10	1931	456
11	642	49
12	54	2
13	3	0
Total	12181	6081

Historical Dates and Data:

-POPULATION AND WORLD HISTORY-

- 1700 – British Colonies in America Population is 275,000
- 1775 - British Colonies in America Population is 2,250,000
- 1800 – U.S.A. population is 5.3 million
- 1800 - White birth rate is 55 per 1000 people
- 1806 - July 12 - the end of the Holy Roman Empire
- 1820 - 83% of population is engaged in agriculture
- 1836 - 75% of population is engaged in agriculture
- 1840 – U.S.A. population is 16 million
 - In the decade of 1840 there were 1.7 million immigrants to U.S.A.
 - 1846 to 1869, about 60,000 Mormon pioneers crossed the prairies to Salt Lake City
- 1850 - U.S.A. population is 23.6 million – half living west of the Alleghenies
 - In the South, there are 1.8 million black slaves – 2.1 million whites
 - In the decade of 1850 there were 2.5 million immigrants
 - The world population is 1.24 Billion – doubling since the 17th century
- 1860 - White birth rate is 41.4 per 1000 people - there are more births than deaths which was the main source of population growth
- 1861 - U.S.A. population is 32 million
 - 22 million in the Northern states
 - 10 million in the Southern states – over one-third are slaves
- 1871 - U.S.A. population is 39 million

- YORK COUNTY CHURCHES AND HISTORY

- 1740's - Hanover was known as McAllistertown
 - First Reformed and Trinity First Reformed Church is founded
 - St. Matthew's Lutheran Church is formed
 - The Great Conestoga Road, completed in 1741
 - York City Records started in 1745
 - Liberty Bell is hung in the PA Statehouse - 1747
- 1750's – Sherman's (Davids – St. Davids) Union Church in West Manheim Twp.
 - St. Jacobs (Stone) Union Chu. Near Brodbecks, Codorus Twp.
 - Ohio River region is explored
 - waltz becomes popular in Europe.
 - Franklin invents the lightening rod.
 - Friedensaal (White) Chu. (aka Schuster's & Yellow Chu.) Springfield Twp. -1774
 - (was Lutheran from 1750's & Reformed from 1760's.)
 - In 1763 Lower Windsor Lutheran Church and Lower Windsor Reformed Church
- 1760'S – Emanuel's Reformed Chu. Hanover (McAllistertown) in 1765
 - Quicel's (Zion) Lutheran and Reformed Chu. In York boro. In 1765
 - Period from 1763-75 was town growth- frame, stone and brick houses built.
 - First forges 1763-70
- 1770's - (St. Paul's) Ziegler's Union Chu. North Codorus Twp. In 1771
 - Emanuel's Reformed in Windsor Twp. In 1772
 - Period 1775-83 – settlements were checked & immigration stopped—Rev. War
- 1780's - Period 1783-1809 Iron Manufacturing flourished
- 1790's – 1791 George Washington visited York
 - Lancaster Pike (opened in 1794) went from Philadelphia to Lancaster

- 1795 first German newspaper "Die York Gazette" in York
 - In late 1700's Dubbs Lutheran & Reformed Church founded in Manheim Twp.
- 1800's - Clover was introduced in northern York County
- The period--1809-1831 is when many roads built
- 1830's – Opened in 1834, a river-canal system was built from Phil. To Pittsburg
- 1838 - 1st train reached York –before this had to go to Columbia to get train
- 1840 - York & Wrightsville Line railroad completed
- 1850 -1st commercial telegraph line through York