Research Summaries

of

REIFF, RIEFF, RIFE

and

WELSCHANS

Families

of

Switzerland, Alsace, [France-Germany], Pennsylvania, Virginia, Indiana, Wilson County, Tennessee, Washington County, Arkansas, etc.

by

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A BIG thank you to my husband, John A. Beekman, for proof reading!
The Reiff and Welschans families had origins in Switzerland, then about 1700 they moved to Alsace - Germany or France depending on the controlling government. Kirberg and area, their place of residence, is now in France. Descendants arrived in the Philadelphia area prior to 1750.

There were other Reiffs or Rifes who came from the Palatinate, Germany or Switzerland, to the Philadelphia area other than those in the main body. They are briefly explored. At times it was difficult to differentiate the Reiff or Rife families. All tended to be members of the Reformed Church, Lutheran Church or were Mennonites originally. In the latter half of the 1700s parts of these families headed for the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

These summaries are not complete or necessarily totally accurate. More research could change conclusions. They should be considered working papers, although this writer does not intend to do further research on them. Hopefully, others can build on them.

An effort was made to show and explain the evidence or lack thereof in proving each generation. If I state a generation or a person is not proven, that is what it is - it should not be locked into a genealogy software program without explanation unless you find better proof that I did. Sources are listed at the end of each family.

You are welcome to use my research, ideas and conclusions expressed herein in your work, but please cite me as the source!

Jane Kyhl Beekman,
2003
Reader Alert!

These research summaries should be regarded as working papers. Additional research may alter the evidence and the conclusions stated.
REIFF, RIEFF, RIFE

of

SWITZERLAND, ALSACE [FRANCE-GERMANY]

PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA,

TENNESSEE, ARKANSAS,

ETC.

by

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Switzerland, Alsace, [Germany-France], Pennsylvania, Virginia, Tennessee, Arkansas, Illinois, Texas, etc.

This research is an effort to discover the family of Susannah Reiff/Rieff who married Jonathan Lomax 6 Feb 1806 in the Wilson County, Tennessee, area. Susannah was the author's great, great, great grandmother. She died in Orange County, Indiana in 1876.

A Rieff family living near the Lomax family in Wilson County was that of Christopher, Christian or Christley Rieff and Mary Wilschannah or Welschans who supposedly raised twelve children to maturity. Thus, the information which follows really centers on that family and its origins, because they were probably Susannah’s family.

The paragraph below written about 1889 has been a tradition of the earliest generation of this Rieff family, and it has been a starting point of research.

"Christopher was of German descent and was born in Pennsylvania in which state he was living during the Revolutionary War. He settled in Wilson County, Tennessee, about 1800 and reared a family of twelve children. He was a very active and energetic man until about middle age, then he had a stroke of paralysis which left him helpless the remainder of his days. He died in 1824 at the age of 70 years. His wife was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and died in 1830 in her 80th year. Their son John Rieff was their ninth child and was born in Winchester, Virginia on 9 Jun 1787." The material further stated that Christopher Rieff's wife was Mary Wilschannah. (See WELSHANS.)

Research began in Lancaster County and then York County, Pennsylvania, and from there it was discovered the Reiff and Welschans families were in Alsace, [now France] and before that probably in Switzerland. A summary follows:

Switzerland and Alsace [now France]

The Alsace area of Germany/France, originally the western part of the Holy Roman Empire, was peaceful until the Thirty Years War [1618-1648]. After that time the inhabitants lived in turmoil for generations - being under one jurisdiction and then another. Under French domination the ministers of the Reformed Church were expelled and Reformed and Lutheran Church inhabitants were forced to convert to Catholicism. So many people died in Alsace of plague and from the Thirty Years' War, that after the defeat of Louis XIV of France in 1697, noble families invited Swiss Reformed Church families to move in to do their work. Most of them came from Canton Bern. (See WELSCHANS for more background.) Likely the Reiff family of Alsace came from Switzerland. There were Ryffs, who later spelled their name "Reiff" in Canton Zurich particularly of Wadenswil in the early 1600's who were said to be the ancestors of REIFF at the end of this material. There is no known relationship to the Reiff family herein described, however.

Abraham Welshans, Joseph Welschans and Hans Jacob Reiff arrived in Pennsylvania on
the ship Robert & Alice from Rotterdam 3 Sept 1739. A total of 213 were on board—78 men, 57 women and 88 children.\textsuperscript{215} They were all said to have come from Kirrberg, Alsace.\textsuperscript{388} The area the Reiffs came from is today in the region known as the northern part of the Department of Bas-Rhin, France. In 1698 the area was returned to the jurisdiction of the Counts of Grafschaft Nassau-Saarwerden and the Lutheran or Reformed Church became the official church. This area under the Counts was where the Reiff and Welschans families resided from about 1700 onward until they immigrated.\textsuperscript{388}

The immigrants were indeed brave to seek a new homeland, because in 1738 many who left Alsace died in route because of terrible conditions at Rotterdam and on the voyage. Estimates have been made that as many as 35\% died.\textsuperscript{388} Reports of the conditions and deaths certainly must have reached the Reiff and Welschans families before they made plans to leave, but they left anyway.

At the time of immigration the area was considered Germanic territory,\textsuperscript{388} so the Reiffs and Welschans families coming to America spoke German, although in reality their fathers or grandfathers likely were born in Switzerland. Even in Switzerland they were of mixed German and French heritage. Church records in villages in Alsace began soon after the Reformation. There are microfilms of Reformed Church records of Alsace in Salt Lake at the Family History Library. Mrs. Burgert indicated that the original records of Diedendorf are housed in archives in Strasbourg, France, and she recommended examining the original records or films of abstracts to follow.\textsuperscript{388}

The Reiff and Welshans families were recorded in Diedendorf Reformed Church for which records began in 1698. This congregation was mainly made up of Swiss families who had moved into the area.\textsuperscript{388} A map of the territory under the jurisdiction of the Counts of Nassau-Saarwerden of the 18\textsuperscript{th} century is shown in Mrs. Burkert’s book. The jurisdiction of Diedendorf Reformed Church included several villages which were the residences of families associated with the two families.\textsuperscript{388} Diedendorf, Kirrberg, Drulingen, Fenetrange [Vistingen], Hirschland, Niederstenstinzell, Altwiller etc. appear on present day maps of France mostly in a cluster.

Beside church entries Mrs. Burgert wrote “Kirrberg=67320 Drulingen or Altwiller= 67260 Sarre-Union” etc.\textsuperscript{388} The number is the zip code number for the present day French name Drulingen or Sarre-Union etc. One presumes the church is or was located at present day Diedendorf, but this is not certain either. The villages are mostly so close to one another that one could literally walk between them as most of them are less than six miles apart. All are about 30 to 40 miles northwest of Strasbourg and the Rhine River which forms the present day border between France and Germany. Mrs. Burgert\textsuperscript{388} believed the following Jacob Reiff could have been the immigrant to Pennsylvania in 1739. The entry from Diedendorf Reformed church book read as follows:

**Johann Jacob Reiff**

Alsace, France

"Johann Jacob Reiff, son of the late Benedict Reiff, former inhabitant at Rotschweiler [possibly Retschwiller = Soultz-sous-Forets (French name) or this might be a place in Switzerland],
married Maria Elisabetha 30 Apr 1715 daughter of Bernhard Bollinger, citizen and farrier at Stinsel. Soultz-sous-Forets and Retschwiller are near one another and about 30 miles away from the other villages on a present day map of France. (See BOLLINGER FAMILY below.)

Johann Jacob Reiff from Kirrberg and wife Maria Elisabetha nee Bolinger had several children baptized at Diedendorf. The entry continued with, “Johann Adam Reiff baptized 19 Apr 1716 and died 22 Mar 1717. Maria Barbara Reiff was baptized 6 Mar 1718. Sponsors were Joh. Jacob Bachman from Hirschland, Maria Barbara wife Malthaus Klein, Niederstensel, and Veronica, daughter of Rudolph Bratsche from Leng, Obersiebenthal, Canton Bern, Switzerland. Maria Christianna Reiff was baptized 17 Sep 1719. Sponsors were John. Nicolaus Bollinger, Niederstensel: Joh. Jacob Bachman [q.v.], Hirschland, Margaretha Gassert, Heillering[en], and Anna Christina Martzloff, Hirsland [Hirschland]. Christina Catharina Reiff was baptized 26 Jul 1722(?). Susanna Magdalena Reiff was baptized 4 Oct 1722(?). Two children baptized the same year? Anna Maria Reiff was baptized 28 Mar 1726. Maria Elisabetha Bolinger’s family follows.

Conclusions: It would have served our purposes well if there had been a son named “Hans Jacob Reiff.” He may have been omitted or born after 1726. He could have been one of the 88 unnamed children on the boat in 1739. This son Jacob could have fathered Christopher or Christian Reiff. Names such as “Christiana” and “Susanna” were used for Christopher and Mary (Welschans) Rieff’s probable children. Therefore, a relationship to this family is believable and probable. The above entry indicated that one or more of the sponsors had recently arrived from Switzerland or still resided there which could suggest these Reiffs recently arrived from there too.

BOLLINGER FAMILY

Alsace, France

Diedendorf Church Book recorded that Christoph, single smith from Stinsell, son of Bernhard Bollinger married 16 Sep 1716 Anna Maria daughter of the late Johannes Zinck, Ackermann [small farmer or farm hand], at Altweiler. Christoph Bollinger, farrier, at Altweiler and wife had several children. Among them was Christophel who was baptized in 1727 with sponsors Christian, son of Johannes Schat, Altweiller, Eva Zinck, wife of Christian Stam, Altweiller and Anna Barbara, daughter of Ulrich Wittmer Altweiller. Conclusion: Bernhard Bollinger was the father of Christoph Bollinger and Maria Elisabetha Bollinger who married Johann Jacob Reiff in 1715 as shown above.

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

Maria Elisabetha (Bollinger)Reiff’s brother Christopher Bollinger and his family were on the boat Alice and Robert in 1739 which arrived in Pennsylvania.

Further, in 1743 a Christopher Bollinger and wife Catharine were sponsors for a Fritz Recher at Muddy Creek Reformed Church in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Did Christopher of Alsace have a later wife? The son baptized in 1727 could hardly have been married by that time. Although the Bollinger family was not from Kirrberg, they were associated with the Diedendorf Church as were the Reiffs, and they decided to emigrate at the same time as the Reiffs and Welschans families.

Since Maria Elisabetha (Bolinger) Reiff’s brother was on the boat in 1739 with Hans Jacob Reiff, it is a reason to believe it was Maria Elisabetha and her husband who immigrated too. The children of Jacob Reiff and 12 year old Christopher Bollinger were together on the voyage. It would not have been unusual for a son Jacob Reiff to have later named one of his sons
“Christopher Reiff” for his cousin Christopher Bollinger and uncle by that name. Note that Christian Schat was a sponsor at the above christening in 1727. Names “Christopher” and “Christian” appear to have been interchangeable. The Bollinger family may have provided Christopher Reiff with his name!

Maria Elisabetha Reiff, wife of Jacob Reiff, was a sponsor for a child of Joseph Welschans christened in 1746 as recorded by Rev. Lischy in the York County, Pennsylvania area. Maria appears to have been Maria Elisabetha (Bollinger) Reiff recorded at Diedendorf Reformed Church in Alsace. The child was named Johan Jacob Welschans and was christened April 28th. (See WELSCHANS.) The names such as “Anna” and “Maria” were considered spiritual names and were not the names the person used legally in documents, but usually one of them was used consistently for a person. It is also possible that Maria Elisabetha soon died and Jacob remarried to Anna Elisabetha after 1746, and they had the children shown on page 5.

Conclusions: This writer is inclined to believe the record is evidence Maria Elisabetha Bollinger and her husband Hans Jacob Reiff were the ones who came to Pennsylvania in 1739. Further, finding Christopher Bollinger in Alsace and Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, was certainly an important discovery!

Heinrich Reiff

Alsace, France

Mrs. Burgert, who tried to match individuals in the European church records with immigrants who arrived in the Lancaster-York County area of Pennsylvania, stated there was a second possibility for the immigrant. Heinrich Reiff, carpenter, in Vinstingen now Fenetrange [French], and wife Magdalena, nee Stucki, had a son named Johann Jacob Reiff baptized 15 Aug 1715. On current maps the village of Vinstingen or really Fenetrange is shown between Diedendorf and Kirrberg. It is possible Jacob was the immigrant in 1739 with Abraham and Joseph Welschans. Possible evidence of a relationship is the fact the name “Henry” appeared in Christopher Rieff’s family.

Son Jacob Reiff would have arrived as a young man age 24 and could have been Jacob Reiff of Lancaster and York Counties shown on page 5. He could have been the one who married Anna Elisabetha in either Alsace or Pennsylvania.

Heinrich Reiff and Benedict Reiff [page 2] may have been related as the distance between their two residences was likely less than 10 miles.

Conclusions: It is pretty definite the immigrant Hans Jacob Reiff who came to Pennsylvania in 1739 was part of the Kirrberg, Alsace Reiff family. Although the exact connection is not known, it can be stated Jacob on page 5 was a member of one of these two Reiff families, because the Welschans men who accompanied him had origins in the same church and area of Alsace and both families remained members of the Reformed Church in Pennsylvania and maintained a close association as shown in baptisms and legal documents to follow. Mrs. Burgert stated that there remain many records of Reformed Churches in Alsace which have not been
This writer leans toward Hans Jacob Reiff and wife Maria Elisabetha Bollinger being the 1739 immigrants and the parents of a son Jacob born after 1726 or omitted from the list. The son Jacob would then be the one who was married to Anna Elisabetha below on this page. The other possibility is that Maria Elisabetha died, Jacob was married again to Anna Elisabetha and they were the parents of the children on page 5 plus Christopher or Christian not recorded.

Conclusion: It is unknown which Jacob and Elizabeth Reiff were likely the parents of Christopher or Christian Rieff shown on page 1. However, it can be stated with more certainty that his Reiff/Rieff family from the Lancaster County, Pennsylvania area, and earlier from the Kirberg area of Alsace currently in France, has been identified.

First Reformed Church, Lancaster County and Zion Reformed Church, York County

Since there is enough evidence that it can be stated that Jacob Reiff and Joseph and Abraham Welschans were the immigrants from Kirberg, Alsace in 1739 from the Diedendorf Reformed Church, it can also be stated they were the same ones who appeared as original members or were associated with of First Reformed Church in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania prior to 1754. It was later called Zion Reformed Church of York County, Pennsylvania. Until 1749 York was part of Lancaster County. Supporting evidence that these two families really came from Diedendorf Church, Alsace, is the fact that families from the Diedendorf Church, allied with or intermarried with them appeared in Reformed Church records in Lancaster-York Counties too.

Jacob Reiff

Lancaster and York Counties, Pennsylvania

Reiff baptism records were obtained from the Historical Society of York County. They were probably all from Rev. Jacob Lischy's private register. The church is not usually known because Rev. Lischy served several Reformed churches in the York County area, but one of them was the First Reformed Church of York, Pennsylvania. In each case the parents were Jacob and Anna Elisabeth Reiff. The following children were recorded: Anna Elisabeth was christened 8 Feb 1756. Michel Trorbach and Elisabeth Reiffin were sponsors. [Note: "Reiffin" was a female version of "Reiff."] Elisabeth Reiffin may be the one shown below as the wife of George Schramm in 1762. Johann Jacob was christened 9 Nov 1757. Sponsors were Gorg Michel Kan and Barbara. Anna Magdelena was christened 17 Aug 1760. Anna Magdelena Welschhanssin was the sponsor, providing evidence of a close tie between the Reiff and Welschans families after arrival in Pennsylvania. There is no birth record for a son named Christian or Christopher Reiff, but this may be because he was born prior to 1756. [Welschhanssin is a female version of Welschans.]

Harry Reiff, who has done extensive research on several Reiff families, made the following statements: "The Jacob Rife married to Elizabeth Trorbach, (Drorebach, Troarbach etc.) is most likely Jacob Reiff Jr., son [born 1757]. I speculate that Christian [Christopher] Rieff and wife Mary Welschans may have followed his brother Jacob to Virginia, thru the Valley, and then on to Tennessee." In reality, it may have been Christian or Christopher Reiff who led the way into the
Shenandoah Valley of Virginia about 1772, because Christian appears to have been several years older than Jacob who was christened in 1757. Elisabeth was a daughter of Michael and Elizabeth Troarbach, Drorebach, Drawbaugh etc. of whom Michael died in York County, Pennsylvania. Her parents had also immigrated from Alsace-Lorraine. The name did not appear in Mrs. Burgert's book, however. It appears Jacob Reiff [Jr.] married the daughter of his sister Elisabeth's baptismal sponsor.

Deeds in York County were searched and an abstract showed a Jacob Reiff of York Town, cordwainer, bought Lot 42 in that town on 3 May 1754 for £53 as the highest bidder in a public Vendue. [Note: a shoemaker and cordwainer both worked with leather.] By examining the location of Lot 42 on a map of York Town, it was discovered that Joseph Welschans owned Lot 40 almost across the street. Both were situated on High Street as shown on a map. Joseph was likely the immigrant with Jacob Reiff in 1739. (See WELSCHANS, p. 7.) This is added evidence the two families clearly associated with one another. Jacob's residence in York Town in 1754 placed him in the vicinity of First Reformed Church where Jacob Reiff was an original member, so it fits well that he was the immigrant from Alsace or his son by that name.

Jacob and wife Elizabeth Reif sold Lot 42 on 17 February 1761 to Kylilian Small [Schmahl] for £120. At the time of the above sale, Jacob Reiff of Shrewsbury was a shoemaker. Jacob signed his name and Elizabeth made a mark. Jacob Reiff had a close association with Killyan Small as noted below. Jacob Reiff was selling his lot purchased in 1754, because he had probably moved his business to Shrewsbury.

Several abstracts of entries from a York County deed book mentioned Jacob Raif (sic) and George Shram were executors of the will of Hans Sciller or Seiler of Paradise Township in May, 1761. The will was written in German. Jacob Raif [Reif] signed his name. In 1764 a minor son, John Sciller, was apprenticed to Killyan Small carpenter and joiner of York Town [York County Orphan's Court, Bk B, p 53]. Reiff was probably the same one who sold the lot to Small.

Joseph Welschanns and wife were witnesses for a baby named Josephus Schramm baptized 21 Nov 1762 at First (Trinity) Reformed Church at York, who was the child of Georg Schramm and wife Elisabeth nee Reif. The record is again evidence of a close association between the Reiff and Welschans families. It is logical to believe Elisabeth Reif was part of the immigrant Hans Jacob Reif's family who came with Joseph Welschanns in 1739. Was she a daughter? Conclusion: It is apparent the families of Reiff, Shramm and Welschans were close friends and intermarried with one another.

Further evidence of a continued close association between the Reiff and Welshance families is indicated in an indenture dated 13 Apr 1772 between Christian Rief of York Township, York County, yeoman and John Rief of Newberry Township yeoman.

Christian Rief was bound unto John Rief in the sum of £100 lawful money of Pennsylvania. Christian was in debt to John Rief apparently for that sum. The indenture showed Christian sold John Rief 100 acres of land “together with the houses out houses buildings barns stables gardens orchards improvements etc.” It was situated in York Township and adjoined George Gusslar(?),
Joseph Shonk and Abraham Welshance. Christian agreed to pay John Rief “£50 with interest and in consideration of the afore said debt payable on 13 Oct next.” John Rief paid Christian 5s.

The document was signed by “Christian rief” twice–first Christian acknowledged the overall indenture and second the five shillings paid by John. His signatures were in Germanic script. The small letter “r” in “rief” was a Germanic “r,” and so were “C” and “h” in “Christian” as were others. In the margin the following is written: “I John Reif [spelled that way in document] the Mortgage in this Deed named Do hereby acknowledge to have received the Debt and interest due to me in this Mortgage in full satisfaction and discharge of the same this 26 Day of Nov 1773. Signed Johanne or Johannes reif. Acknowledged before me Saml Johnston, Recorder.” [probably York County Deed Bk B, p. 55-56] The letters of Johanns’ [John’s] signature were also written in German.”

Harry Reiff said, “The 1739 immigrant Jacob Reiff was the one said to have died in 1771 or 1772 in York County, and that may explain the indenture in 1772 in York County between Christian and John Rief, following Jacob’s estate settlement. It may in turn date when Christian and family left Pennsylvania for Maryland or Virginia.” A search of York County indexes of wills and probate inventories did not reveal this estate, however. Current research may suggest it was the immigrant’s son, Jacob, who died about 1772 if any documentation of this death can be found. In that event, the death of the immigrant, Jacob, is unknown unless he could conceivably have had a second wife named Anna Elisabetha. In that case his life spanned from his birth in about 1690 in Alsace or Switzerland to about 1772 in Pennsylvania.

It is clear Christian paid his debt to John. It could mean that Christian, as the eldest son of Jacob Rief, inherited the land which was heavily mortgaged and to get out of debt and since he wanted to leave the area sold it to his brother John. Perhaps from the sale of Jacob’s personal property and land Christian was able to satisfy the remainder of the debt. There are probably other interpretations which could be drawn from this document so it should be examined.

According to Mr. Harry Reiff there were other Reiffs in York County including a Jacob Reiff of Newberry Township who was a Lutheran, but it is unlikely John in the 1772 indenture was of that family. The Mennonite Reiff family mentioned in REIFF migrated to this area of York County it is believed, and that family also had members named Jacob Reiff and John Reiff. Conclusion: It appears to have been coincidence that John Rief resided near the other Reiff family in Newberry Township, but researchers need to be alert to the situation.

Conclusion: The deed indenture in 1772 indicated the immigrant Abraham Welschance, or a son by that name, was an adjoining land owner to Christian or John Rief in York Township. Christian must have been age 21 in 1772 or older which suggests a birth date of 1751 or earlier. The birth date of 1754 in the Rieff tradition may be slightly in error. The indenture may point to John and Christian being brothers and older sons of Jacob and Anna Elisabetha Reiff. They would have been born before the other children were recorded by Rev. Lischy. It fits well that Abraham’s daughter Mary or Maria Welschance married the neighbor’s son, Christian Rief. (See WELSCHANS.)

Evidence to follow suggests the names “Christian” and “Christopher” were used
"Christopher" would have been a 'more English or American' name. The clerk spelled the surname in the deed indenture in 1772 as "Rief." That may be a clue that this was Christopher Rieff later of Tennessee, because his sons seemed to spell their name "Rief.

Fragments of tax lists for York County dating from 1769 to 1774 were searched, but no one named Christian or Christopher Rieff/Reiff/Rife appeared but John and Jacob Rife appeared.

Summary: It can be stated that Christopher or Christian Reiff/Rife/Rieff to follow most likely descended from the family of immigrant Johann Jacob Reiff from Kirrberg, Alsace in 1739, although there is more than one possibility on how he was related to him. The close association with the Welschans family who were Mary's family is convincing evidence of this conclusion. Discovery of the name “Christopher,” which is somewhat of an unusual name in the French-German records, in the Bollinger family is added evidence that likely Christopher Rieff’s family has been identified.

Christopher, Christian or Crisley Reiff, Rife or Rieff - First Generation

Frederick County Area, Virginia

Christopher or Christian and Mary or Maria (Welschans) Rieff left Pennsylvania for Virginia as early as 1770, because two of the eldest children, Henry and Elizabeth, were reported born in Virginia. The areas in which they lived might have been claimed by Pennsylvania and Virginia or even Maryland. The 1790 census of Frederick County, Maryland, may suggest this possibility. It had listings for two Jacobs, Henry, Christian, Joseph and Christopher Rife or Riffe or Riffle. The last page of this material describes a Frederick County, Maryland, Riffe family. Maybe Christian, Christopher or Chrisley Rieff was up and down the Shenandoah Valley before and during the years of the Revolution moving frequently to places where his work took him. From the limited knowledge of his sons Henry and Joseph, perhaps Christopher was a builder of some sort.

Christopher and Mary’s ninth child, John Rieff, was born in Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia, in 1787. The 1787 tax list of personal property of Frederick County, Virginia, in the town of Winchester showed a Christian Rife. He had one cow, no horses, no blacks, no males between 16 and 21 years and he was charged with the tax himself. That is exactly where Christopher Rieff was said to have been the year when son John was born!

Conclusion: The tax list of 1787 is another good reason for believing “Christopher” also used the name “Christian.” Son Henry should have been present in Christian’s home in 1787, because he was between the ages of 16 and 21 years, but perhaps he was working away from home.

Wythe County, Virginia

Beginning in 1794 through 1798 Christian/Chrisly Rife appeared usually on Samuel Corkett’s tax lists of Wythe County, Virginia. A clue that this was "our" Christopher Rieff is evidenced by the fact that Christopher’s son Henry Rife also appeared on the lists through 1796. Son Henry was reported to have married Catherine Sick there in 1794, so the tax lists confirmed both Christian/Christopher and Henry’s presence there at that time. Henry Rieff left Wythe County
about 1796 for Tennessee, and about 1799 Christian/Chrisly apparently followed him.

Other Rifes on the Montgomery-Wythe County lists were Elijah, Jacob, Abraham, Gabriel, James and Peter. Their relationship, if any, to Christopher or Christian and son Henry Rieff is unknown.

Wilson County, Tennessee

There is only one record found to date involving a resident of Wilson County, Tennessee which may have been Christopher or Christian Rife/Rieff. A signature of a “Crisly(?)” or “Cristly(?)” Rife was found in a petition to the General Assembly involving a case where Zebulon Baird accidentally killed Spencer Mercer. The petition was an effort to free Zebulon and was dated 28 January 1809. A copy of the signatures was obtained. Each man signed his name as many kinds of handwriting appeared in the document. The last name was definitely “Rife” but the first name is hard to read. It was somewhat surprising that Crisley, Christian or Christopher signed his name that way, because his sons distinctly spelled the name “Rieff.” The signature did not in any way resemble Christian’s signature on the deed indenture in 1772 in York County, Pennsylvania. No Germanic letters appeared in this one. This leaves room to question if the signatures were for the same man. If petitioners really needed signatures, someone could have written Christopher’s name on the petition in light of the stroke he was reported to have suffered.

Christian, Christopher or Chrisley Reiff, Rife or Rieff did not seem to appear in deeds, probate or court records in Wilson County, but that could have been attributed to his health.

Conclusion: Although it is explainable, the signature on the petition is negative evidence Christopher or Chrisley Rieff of Wilson County was the same individual in the 1772 document in York County, Pennsylvania because the signatures were so different.

There is a cemetery on the old farm which belonged to Christopher and Mary (Welschans) Rieff’s son John Rieff and wife Hannah Ross. Mr. Joel Ross found a stone which may be for Christian/Crisley/Christopher Rieff. The cemetery is located to the east of Tennessee Highway 109 on the west side of Gwynn Road [Lane]. Ross made the following statements about the cemetery in 1990:

“The cemetery near Hannah’s yard has a rock fence around it. The fence was probably built by the Gwynns who purchased the farm from John and Hannah Rieff. The original cemetery was probably larger but markers outside the wall were destroyed. Fortunately, loose, inside the wall are the following stones:

“C. Rieff, b. 27, 17??, d. J 26, 182?” He was believed to have been Christopher/Christian or Chrisley Rieff herein described.

“In memory of Samuel Bryant b. Dec 26, 1777, d. Jan 5, 1821.” He was bondsman for John and Hannah Rieff’s wedding.

“Patcy [C?]arpenter? Rieff, b. Nov [2?], 18[2?]0” She was John and Hannah (Ross) Rieff’s daughter who died in infancy.107, 305

“In memory of Henry Ross who departed life Feb 16, 1827 aged 82 years.” (See 9.JOHN
RIEFF for Patcy/Martha.)"  Henry was Hannah's father and came from Ireland at age six.  

This writer visited Gwynn Cemetery in March 2002. The cemetery of about 20 feet by 20 feet is first fenced with about a 2 1/2 foot cement [never was stone] wall and then is surrounded with a chain link fence which is kept locked. The loose stones are still leaning inside against the cement wall as they were when Ross read them more than ten years ago. A better description for locating the cemetery is to take U.S. 70 west out of Lebanon to 109 and go north [Old Laguardo Rd]. Turn right on Double Log Cabin Road to Gwynn Lane and turn right or south. Gwynn Cemetery is on the west side of the road about 1 mile south.

Mr. Hugh Gwynn of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, cleared the cemetery of trees and weeds and put up the chain link fence about nine years ago to keep cattle out. Gwynn who is 74 years old grew up on the property and stated the loose stones were first located 20 to 30 feet to the west of Gwynn cemetery. The last Gwynn buried in Gwynn Cemetery was a maiden aunt who died in 1957, and it was about this time that the cement wall was added.

Gwynn and Sylvia Cook spent two hours trying to read the loose tombstones in April 2002. The one of interest for C. Rieff may be one, but they could not read it. There are about four illegible [smooth] stones and one or more could be buried. The inscription of Samuel Bryant was carved deeper and larger, and although the death date looked like Feb 5, 1891 it probably was 1821. An inscription not recorded by Joel Ross was that of Rebecka [Relecha] Bryant who departed this life Jun 1825, born Apr 17/14, 1782. Patcy _arpenter Rieff's almost illegible stone shows Nov ___ 1820. The inscription for Henry Ross was as given by Joel Ross. Henry Ross' land grant was said to adjoin the Rieff place. It is possible that Christopher and Mary (Welschans) Rieff made their home with John and Hannah (Ross) Rieff.

Gwynn stated the brick home at the top of the hill marks the site of two earlier houses. He said, "Old one burned about 1932." John and Hannah (Ross) Rieff probably lived in the first one.

Conclusions: If there was a grave marker for C. Rieff, it cannot be read today. John and Hannah (Ross) Rieff probably erected grave markers for each of their father's graves on their property before they moved to Arkansas, but that was prior to 1850.

The children below are believed to be some of the twelve of Christopher and Mary (Wilschans/Welschans) Rieff. Christopher and Mary (Welschans) Rieff had sons John, Jacob and Joseph Rieff who served in the Creek Indian War in 1813 under Andrew Jackson. This service was verified by discovery of these three Reiff men as a part of "The Natchez Expedition 1813" when they appeared among the men in Troop #10 of Captain Bradley's 66 men.

Some children below are positive, some are probable and some only possible. Henry Rieff and Elizabeth (Rife) Cartmell were so closely linked to the recorded son John Rieff, they are deemed positive. The use of given and middle names for their children tie them together. For example, Elizabeth named a son Henry Rife Cartmell. [Elizabeth had married Solomon Cartmell.] John named sons Henry Rieff and Martin Cartmell Rieff. The names help confirm that Elizabeth, John and Henry were likely brothers and sister as has been claimed. Jacob and Joseph Rieff are also judged to have been positive sons. The list below was compiled by Reba Staggs and the
author. The order is unknown except Henry, Elizabeth, and Christina were older.

The names of the children do not reflect parents of Germanic heritage. Thus, Christopher or Christian and Maria or Mary (Welschans) Rife or Rieff and family did not apparently live among German families or cling to Germanic naming customs. None of the known children and grandchildren was named "Christian" or "Christopher." This seems a little unusual.

**Conclusions:** Probably the eldest and youngest children bear the names of the projected parents, Elizabeth and Jacob Rief/Rife/Reiff who resided in York County, Pennsylvania, at the time Christopher or Christian was growing up. This has to be considered good evidence that Christopher Rieff's family has been identified, and it fulfills the Rieff tradition presented on page 1 for the most part, but the researcher should keep in mind that little documentation has been found in Tennessee of the existence of a man named "Christopher," "Christian" or "Chrisly."

**Projected Children of Christian/Christopher Rife, Reiff or Rieff and Mary Welschans:**

1. **HENRY RIEFF** was born 16 Aug 1770 in Richmond, Virginia.\(^{360, 551}\) His daughter **Euphama (Rieff) Cato**'s descendants recorded the place as "the capital Richmond, Virginia." [Note: The capital of Virginia was not Richmond in 1770—it was still Williamsburg.] Pauline Webb related that a letter supposedly dictated by Euphama (Rieff) Cato stated Henry's birth was near the capital Williamsburg.\(^{33}\) The information in the record is flawed because of editorial changes or judgements added later. According to Reba Staggs there is also a reference in Henry's family that his birth was in York County,\(^{134}\) and that would be in agreement with current research involving York County, Pennsylvania. [Note: There is a York County, Virginia, and it was part of Williamsburg–York and James City Counties share a border up the middle of Duke of Gloucester Street.] Henry kept a journal which was handed down to his descendants.\(^{360}\)

Henry married Catherine [Caty] Sick[s] in Wythe County, Virginia 11 Nov 1794.\(^{360}\) Another source stated they married 14 Apr 1793 at Wytheville, Virginia. Catherine Sick [Caty] was born 2 Sep 1774 Wythe County.\(^{551}\) No marriage record has been found to date. In 1796 Henry moved to Nashville, Tennessee, but his family was raised in Wilson County.\(^{360}\) The article in the Washington County, Arkansas, history referred to 9. **JOHN RIEFF** living with an elder brother.\(^{107}\) Reba Staggs\(^{134}\) and others believed the elder brother was Henry.

Henry Rieff's land which was approximately five miles south of the Cumberland River on Spencer's Creek as shown on a map of Wilson County by Mr. Joel Ross.\(^{33}\) It was in close proximity to John Rieff's land and Gwynn Cemetery mentioned earlier. Highway 109 separates the properties.

The list of children was recopied by someone and there are some variances. On the first page of Henry Rieff's journal there was a first child born 22 Nov 1795 but the three letter first name is almost illegible—perhaps it is "Gill."\(^{360}\) Descendants called him "Gil"\(^{551}\) or "Ellis." There was an "Ellis G. Reffe who appeared in the 1830 census in Wilson County so he likely was this child. The children have been documented in a variety of sources. i.e. Bible or journal record of Henry Rieff, estate settlement of Henry Rieff and the will of Katharine (Sick or Seek) Rieff of Jefferson County, Illinois in 1847. Sometimes the spellings of the names varied, however.
Information in Henry's journal indicated he had a mechanical mind. For example, the journal described a clock and a "fluter wheal (sic) water mill." He must have been in a trade requiring laborers because on 17 Jun 1796 Wythe County court records showed Jno. Grills bastard child of Nancy Moore was bound to Henry Rife. On 12 Oct 1796, "On motion of Henry Rife who was about to leave the state it was ordered that he be given permission to be released of John Franklin who was bound to him as an apprentice as both agreeing that Franklin is to be bound to Jas. Ellis."499

Conclusions: The Wythe County record confirmed Henry Rieff lived in Wythe County as stated and left for Tennessee just as the tradition claimed that he did. Possibly a child was named "Ellis" for Jas. Ellis. (Note the children below.) There were "Seeks" or "Sicks" living in the Wythe County area too, but this writer did not explore that family.

Reba Staggs found a microfilm record of Henry and "Cata" (sic) Rieff being received "by experience" at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church at Mt. Juliet, Wilson County in June 1815 and 1816. However, in 1833 Catherine Rieff was "dismist by letter."134

Henry Rieff's estate was being probated in the August 1824 Wilson County court. It continued in February 1825 where the heirs were named. Allen Ross, who was related to 9. JOHN RIEFF's wife, was a guardian for the minor children. A deed showed that Samuel Dukes and wife Darthula and John Dukes and wife Eleanor heirs of Henry Rieff deceased sold 70 acres of land on Spencer's Creek to John A. McClain in November 1838. Catherine Rieff relinquished her right of dower. (See Deed Book S, p. 31-32) In the Aug 1824 Wilson County Court Term the estate of Henry Rieff amounted to $541.43 3/4. Further court records showed that lots by number were distributed among the children--one per child. It did not state where they were located.

Katherine or Caty (Sicks) Rieff died 18 Mar 1847 in Jefferson County, Illinois. Reba Staggs134 located the will of Katharine (Sicks) Rieff. The will listed the children except for Gil/ Ellis. Pauline Webb and Reba Staggs provided marriage partners and residence information on the children.33,134 The children are listed with birth dates as shown in Henry's journal.360

Children of Henry Rieff and Catherine Sicks:

a. Gil Rieff was born 22 Nov 1795.360,551 An Ellis G. Refe appeared in the 1830 Wilson County census. There were two males aged 15 to 20 and Ellis was aged 30 to 40. There was a female under 5 and another aged 20 to 30 who was likely his wife. There was one male slave age 10 to 24. One would guess Ellis or Gil died before Katharine (Sicks) Rieff made her will, but his children should have been heirs if he had any. The males aged 15 to 20 likely were not sons.

b. Narcissa Rieff was born 25 Jan 1797 and married Jesse Eagan and lived in Wilson County.

c. Taurus [O.] Rieff was born 7 Dec 1798, married Charlotte Hall and died in Big Springs, Arkansas. They are family of William Fowler's wife.108 They were in Washington County, Arkansas in the 1850 census.

e. Malvina Rieff was born 12(?)) Ap 1803, married Thomas Willis and in the 1850 census they were in Perry Twp, Johnson County, Arkansas. He was a Baptist minister.

f. Marcus Rieff was born 25 Ap 1806, married Eliza Huln and may have been deceased when his mother, Caty, made her will as his son John Henry Rieff was named in her will.

g. Elander Rieff was born 16 Jan 1808 and married John Dukes.

h. Amanda Rieff was born 21(?)) Dec 1809 and married Abner P. Hill.

i. Zurintha Rieff was born 5 May 1812 and married Lewis C. Hill but died in 1834 in Wilson County, Tennessee. Her children, Catherine Ann Hill and Torris or Taurus [Abner] Hill, were named in Caty's will. Catherine Ann is Reba Staggs' family.\[134\]

j. Ethinda Rieff [It was written that way in Katherine's will.] was born 4 Aug 1814 also had the name Ethienda.\[33\] She married John Breeze of Orange County, Indiana, as his second wife and she died 10 Dec 1847 in Jefferson County, Illinois. They are family of Pauline Webb.\[33\]

k. Katherine Rieff was born 20 Feb 1817 and married James Wynn[s].

l. Darthula Rieff was born 8(?) Mar [May?] 1819 and married Samuel Duke[s] and lived in Jefferson County, Illinois.

Projected Children of Christopher/Christian Rief and Mary Welschans: (Continued)

2. ELIZABETH RIFE/REIFF was born in Virginia in 1772 as shown in her obituary.\[325\] She was shown to have married Solomon Cartmell 26 Jan 1792 in Frederick County, Virginia. She was married by a Lutheran minister named Dr. Streit.\[134\] Mrs. Anderson provided information on the children who were Nathan, Nathaniel, Martin, Henry Rife, and Mary Cartmell. These children were all minors when Solomon died about 1804 in Frederick County.\[104\] One of Elizabeth's grandsons reportedly stated that Henry, Elizabeth, and Joseph Rieff or Rife were brothers and sister.\[134\] This was helpful in verifying this family. The Cartmells were early arrivals in Frederick County as men named Nathaniel, Edward and Nathan were voters there in December 1755. Sons Nathaniel and Nathan Cartmell were Elders in the Wilson County Tennessee Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Lebanon in 1852 and 1853 as shown in session minutes. Henry Rieff Cartmell was a prominent Baptist in Washington-on-the Brazos, Texas area.\[134\] He married twice and had several children. Mary married Stephen Pritchard near Kernstown, Virginia. Nathaniel married Isabell Gleaves and had children. Nathan married Sarah and had children.\[104\]

Son Martin Cartmell was in Madison County, Tennessee, by 1822 according to Goodspeed's History of Madison County, Tennessee, (Nashville, 1887). Martin was born 2 Nov
1797 in Virginia. He came to Tennessee with his mother and died 4 Jul 1864 at Jackson, Tennessee. At age 18 he was in General Jackson's bodyguard and fought in Georgia and Florida against the Indians. In 1820 Martin married Margaret Neille of Wilson County, who bore him two daughters both of which died, and she died. Martin married second Miss J. A. or Jemima Sharp who was born in Rutherford County, Tennessee in 1809. They had three sons and two daughters. Son Robert H. Cartmell was born in Jackson, 27 Jul 1828. They had eight children.33

Elizabeth (Rife) Cartmell married second James Leach 5 Mar 1805.104 She was again married by a Lutheran minister in Frederick County.134 Reformed and Lutheran Churches often occupied the same building, so the congregations were closely associated to one another just as they were in Alsace, France. Thus, since the Reiff/Reiff family had origins in the Reformed Church, it was not surprising that Elizabeth was married by a Lutheran minister both times.

Elizabeth (Rife) Cartmell had children with James Leach. James and Elizabeth Leach were in Wilson County, Tennessee prior to the 1820 census. They had Joseph, Rebecca and Mariah Leach. Mariah married Barnard Holtzclaw who was likely the one who was an overseer for Andrew Jackson.134 Both Leach daughters moved to Texas about 1838 where they were living in the 1850 census. Rebecca married Ed Cabler.134

Elizabeth (Rife) Cartmell Leach was buried at Powell Cemetery west of Lebanon, Tennessee and east of Mt. Juliet. 134 A slab type grave marker stated, "In memory of Elizabeth Leach who died 26 Jul 1847, aged 76 years." She died 26 Jul 1847 at the home of her son Nathaniel Cartmell in Wilson County.325

? CHRISTINA RIFE married William Hodson 2 Jun 1792 in Frederick County, Virginia. She is designated as a possible daughter, because she was married in the same county about the same time as 2. ELIZABETH RIFE, and her name "Christina" could have derived from "Christian" or "Christopher." It was a name used by Johann Jacob Reiff and Maria Elisabetha Bollinger for their children in Alsace, France.

? NANCY REIFF married Joshua Barnes 10 Jan 1807 in Wilson County, Tennessee. Henry Reiff was a surety for her marriage. That is a big clue that he was related to her. Joshua was a Methodist circuit rider out of Tennessee into Mississippi. Nancy is designated a probable child.134

? SALLY REIFF married Green Williams 10 Dec 1811 in Wilson County, Tennessee. Henry Reiff was a surety for her marriage. Again this is a clue of a relationship to Henry and his family. Henry Rieff's name looked like "Harvey" but it was "Henry" in both cases. Sally is designated a probable child. Green Williams appeared in 1820 census of Wilson County, Tennessee. There were two people present who were over 45 years of age who could have been Christopher and Mary (Welschans) Rieff. Henry Reef (sic) was living next to Green Williams and both were not far from John Rife. (See children #1 and 9.)

? UNKNOWN CHILD

? ELLIS G. RIEFF probably was the eldest child of 1. HENRY RIEFF known as "Gil."551 He was attributed to Christopher and Mary by Reba Staggs at one time,134 but this is likely wrong, because
Mary would have been about age 45 when he was born. (See 1. HENRY RIEFF.)

18. SUSANNAH REIFF was born 16 Nov 1784 in Virginia.18 Susannah Reiff married Jonathan Lomax on 6 Feb 1806 in Wilson County, Tennessee according to Lomax family records.18 The marriage has not been located there, but that is where Jonathan Lomax was living in 1806. Susannah is this writer’s great, great, great grandmother and the subject of this research summary. Susannah is designated a probable child based on extensive circumstantial evidence:

Fact: Jonathan Lomax's wife's name was given as Susannah Reiff18 in Lomax sources. Their marriage date in Wilson County is also given in Lomax sources.

Fact: Jonathan Loman (sic) appeared on a tax list with 1. HENRY RIEFF in 1806 on Spencer's Creek in Wilson County. Therefore, the Lomaxes and Rieffs were living near one another at the time of the marriage. Henry's land was approximately five miles south of the Cumberland River and a little west of highway 109.

Fact: Jonathan Lomax knew 11. JOSEPH RIEFF. In a Wilson County court case Jonathan Loman (sic) versed Thomas C. Davis in the March court term of 1810. Joseph Reiff was a witness for Jonathan Lomax indicating the two families were friendly with one another.

Fact: Henry and Joseph Reiff are proven children of Christopher and Mary (Welschans) Rieff.

Fact: Susannah was born in Virginia where Christian or Christopher and Mary (Welschans) Rieff likely resided in 1784.

Fact: No other Reiff families appear to have lived in Wilson County in 1806 or thereabouts.

Fact: The name “Susanna” was in the family of immigrant Joseph Welschans, who was possibly Mary’s father. It was also in Johann Jacob and Maria Elisabeth (Bollinger) Reiff’s family.

Those are the facts and background which point to Susannah being a daughter of Christian, Christopher or Chrisley and Mary (Welschans) Rieff, but it probably cannot be stated with absolute certainty. The author feels it is unlikely definite proof of Susannah’s family beyond these circumstances will ever be found.

Susannah Reiff and Jonathan Lomax’s nine children do not particularly reflect the names found in the Rieff family except for a daughter named "Polly" Lomax which is a nickname for "Mary." No obituary for Susannah (Reiff) Lomax has been found to date. The author’s grandfather, Quintin W. Lomax, recalled stories from the Arabian Knights Susannah (Reiff/Rieff) Lomax told him as a small boy in Orange County. Susannah obviously had at least some education.

Susannah (Reiff/Rieff) Lomax died in Orange County, Indiana, 29 Jan 1876 before Indiana kept death records. She is buried in Lomax Cemetery in Greenfield Township. Jonathan and Susannah (Reiff) Lomax’s children are shown in Abel Knight of Guilford County, North Carolina, His Ancestors, His Descendants etc by this writer and in other published sources of the Lomax
Conclusions: After visiting the area of Wilson County in which Henry and John Rieff and Jonathan Lomax lived in 1806, it is clear that they were all neighbors. Susannah, the projected sister of John, Henry and Joseph Rieff, clearly had an opportunity to meet and marry Jonathan Lomax. Jonathan Lomax was well enough acquainted with Joseph Reiff/Rieff to ask him to be a witness in a court case in 1810. It is reasonable to believe he was Susannah's brother.

9. JOHN RIEFF was born 9 Jun 1787 in Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia, the ninth of twelve children. Based on the biographical sketch and other evidence, he is considered a positive child. He married Hannah Ross on 19 Apr 1809 in Wilson County, Tennessee. The bondsman or surety was Samuel Bryant. Hannah's father was Henry Ross whose land adjoined theirs. John served in the Creek Indian War with his brothers Joseph and Jacob. John and Hannah became members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the Lebanon Circuit about 1838. Samuel Bryant and probably his wife Rebecca/Relecha, were buried on their property. Their relationship, if any, is unknown.

John and Hannah owned the farm where the grave of Christopher Rieff appears to be located as mentioned earlier. It is not believed that the Ross, Rieff and Bryant grave markers were ever in Gwynn Cemetery, although these loose stones were placed inside the wall and fence later.

By the 1850 census John and Hannah Rieff were in Prairie Township, Washington County, Arkansas. John was age 64 and born in Virginia and Hannah was 66 and born in North Carolina. No children were at home. Their children were Oren Murray, Washington Gwinn, Mary J. (Polly), Martin Cartmell, Henry, Elizabeth, Nancy White and Martha Carpenter Rieff. [All children had the surname Rieff after the middle name.] The last two children died as infants. Oren Rieff married Matilda Ann Fambro and they had a large family who are described in depth in some issues of Flashback. Mary/Polly married Rev Thomas Brinson while still in Tennessee. Martin married Mary Alexander and second Eliza. Henry Rieff, named for John's elder brother, married Sarah/Sallie O. Wilson. Elizabeth married Thomas J. Kelly. "Patcy," a nickname for "Martha," is probably the one buried on John and Hannah's property. She died in Tennessee before the family moved to Arkansas.

John and Hannah Rieff were buried in Rieff's Chapel Cemetery located southwest of Cato Springs, Arkansas. A biographical sketch of John Rieff appeared in a Washington County history book. John died 23 May 1870. Much information on the family of John Rieff family can be found at the Washington County, Arkansas, Historical Society.

REBECCA RIEFF is designated as a possible daughter. The author has no other information on her except the source who listed her as a daughter.

11. JOSEPH RIEFF was born in 1789 according to his age on his tombstone. He was born in Virginia as shown in the 1850 census of Richland Township, Washington County, Arkansas. He is listed as a positive child of Christian or Christopher and Mary (Welschans) Rieff. Joseph may have been named for Mary's father or relative Joseph Welschans who was one of the noted
gunsmiths of York County. According to a biography on Joseph Rieff's son Americus Vespucius Rieff, Joseph was born in the Shenandoah Valley and came to Nashville in 1820. The birth place fits Christian or Christopher Rieff or Rife's residence about 1790, because he was probably still living in the Frederick County area. It would be considered part of the Shenandoah Valley. Joseph likely arrived in Wilson County, Tennessee, with his parents in the late 1790s.

Joseph married Lydia Burton in 1818 in Sumner County, Tennessee. Lydia died in 1831. Joseph Rieff's wife probably was buried in Old Nashville Cemetery in Davidson County. There is a record which shows "Annie L. Reiff, 1831." The "L" in her name perhaps refers to "Lydia." There is also a inscription of "Mrs. Rieff which could possibly be Joseph's mother, Mary (Welschans) Rieff. Joseph married next Susan Leach 26 Sep 1833 in Davidson County, Tennessee. Reba Staggs found that marriage in the archives in Nashville, and she felt it was probably the marriage of this Joseph Rieff.

Joseph appeared in the Sumner County 1820 census with the following males 0-0-2-2-2-0 and females 1-1-1-0-0 with 3 in manufacturing and 2 slaves. What was Joseph manufacturing?

Note the following statement about Andrew Jackson's Hermitage fire in 1834 when Joseph was working on Andrew J. Donelson's nearby Tulip Grove plantation and spotted the blaze: "Through determination and agility, Joseph Reiff managed to climb to the roof of the dining room, which extended as a wing from the house itself and finally put out the fire." Other historical information stated that Joseph agreed to repair the Hermitage in 1835 for a cost of $3,950.00. The actual cost was $6,425.00. Joseph was apparently influenced and inspired by this beautiful Greek Revival home which still has wallpaper in the hall depicting the mythical Greek Telemachus’ search for his father Odysseus. (Note a son with the name below.)

Joseph Rieff and family moved to Washington County, Arkansas in 1836. He appeared there in the 1850 census in Richland Township. He was age 59 and born in Virginia. His wife Susan was not present, but there were sons Americus Rieff age 20 and Collatimus Rieff age 14.

Joseph Rieff died 10 Nov 1856 in his 67th year and was buried in Mt. Comfort Cemetery which is four miles northwest of Fayetteville, Arkansas. Reba Staggs provided most of the information on the children.

Children of Joseph Rieff and wife Lydia Burton:

? Martha Rieff was born 1814-1819 married Alfred Eagan 1 Apr 1835 [license date] in Wilson County, Tennessee. Alfred was a nephew of Jesse Eagan who married 1. HENRY RIEFF'S daughter Narcissa Rieff. Martha gave her children Greek/Roman names such as "Newton Tauras" and "Theopholis Eagan." They moved to Ripley County, Missouri in the 1850's. It is uncertain she was a daughter of Joseph Rieff except the name "Tauras" is good evidence. (See 1. HENRY RIEFF.) Whether Lydia was her mother is unknown. Martha would appear to have been the female child under age ten present in Joseph's home in the 1820 census.

a. Telemachus Rieff was born in 1821 and died in 1840 as shown on his tombstone at
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Mt. Comfort Cemetery.

b. Joseph Fenelon Rieff was born about 1825 and died 25 Oct 1864 in the Civil War.

c. Leonedus Rieff was born in 1828 and died in 1845 according to his tombstone.

d. Americus V. Rieff was born 1 Jul 1830 in Nashville. He served in the Mexican War and Confederate States of America in the Calvary. He married Mary J. Spencer, daughter of Isaac and P.H. (Mobley) Spencer. They had a large family, many of whom were still living in 1891. Americus was age 68 in the 1900 census in Big Rock Township, Pulaski, County, Ark. A.V. died 14 Mar 1914.

e. Collatimus Rieff was born about 1836. He may have been called "W.C." as a child with those initials was buried in 1853 on Joseph Rieff's lot in Mt. Comfort Cemetery.

12. JACOB RIFE was born 23 Sept 1791 and died 27 Apr 1845 as shown on a tombstone of King Cemetery, Gallatin, Sumner County, Tennessee. "The cemetery is 5/10 mile east of Gallatin on Cole's Ferry Road then 5/10 mile south on Woodvale Drive. The cemetery is a subdivision in a wooded lot on the west side of the street." He was probably the Jacob listed as a brother of 9. JOHN RIEFF who served in the Creek War, but proof is lacking. Jacob Rife was listed in Sumner County in the 1840 census with the following males: one aged 5 to 10, two aged 10 to 15, one aged 30 to 40 and one aged 50 to 60. Jacob was likely the one aged 50 to 60 as it agrees with the birth date on the tombstone. The females were: three under 5, one aged 5 to 10 and one was aged 30 to 40. Perhaps he had a married daughter or son with children living with him.

Other Reiffs

Jacob Rife - Frederick County, Virginia

A Jacob Rife had land in Frederick County, Virginia, prior to June 1763 as shown in the following entry: "John Funkhouser, assignee of Jacob Rife, no warrant surveyed 21 Jun 1763; 129 acres on drains of Funks Mill Run; adjacent to his [Rife] land, John Funkhouser, Barnet Siver. Chain Carriers were John Mauk and Jacob Funkhouser. Markers were John Funk and Jacob Rife. Surveyor Robert Rutherford. 3 Jul 1769 - Rife to Funkhouser." Other entries made reference to Jacob Rife Sr., so there must have been two of them. The Frederick County deed index showed transactions involving Jacob Rife in the 1760's. On 8 Oct 1766 Jacob Riffe deeded land to Henry Nesley. The involvement with a Neasley, Nesley, Nisley or Nysley family suggests Jacob was part of the Mennonite Reiff family described in REIFF.

It is probable this land was really later in Shenandoah County rather than Frederick County. Mr. Harry Reiff believed the Rifes who lived there were part of the Mennonite family described in REIFF. Christopher Rieff's family is not believed to have been related to REIFF which is shown at the end. Both Reiff/Rieff families had the same given names and were in the
same localities at times and perhaps had a common ancestor in Switzerland at an early time. Some researchers believe the three brothers discussed in REIFF\(^1\) originated in Wadenswil, Canton Zurich, Switzerland, where the name was spelled “Ryff,” and they were identified as “Anabaptists.”\(^553\)

**Christian Rife - Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Muster rolls of militia, and the census lists taken in 1775, eight years prior to the first national census, are part of a collection of documents relating to military affairs in Dunmore County, Virginia, recording activities of the County Committee of Safety at the beginning of the Revolution. Dunmore was created from Frederick County in 1772 and named in honor of Lord Dunmore but changed by the State Legislature in Oct 1777 to "Shanando." It not only embraced Shenandoah but two thirds of Page and half of Warren County.\(^447\)

Revolutionary war records of Virginia on the list of Captain Michael Reader included men from what is now Page County, Virginia but was Shenandoah County, showed a man named Christley Rife as a member of the company. He is more likely the Christian Rife who married Elizabeth Hottel described in REIFF.\(^1\) The date was no later than 1777.

There was a Christian Riffe in Shenandoah County on the 1787 tax list at the same time there was a Christian Rife present in Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia. Therefore, there were two Christian Rife's in the Shenandoah Valley in 1787. The record of a “Christley Rife” is an instance of the name “Christley” being a nickname for "Christian," but this time used for a man who lived and remained in Shenandoah County. There was also a man named Jacob Rufe, which could possibly have been a misspelling or misreading of Reiff.\(^447\)

**Conclusion:** Current research does not support Christian or Christley Rife of Shenandoah County being the one later in Wilson County, Tennessee.

**George Reif – Sumner County, Tennessee**

A George A. Reif was a witness to a deed in 1793 in Sumner County, Tennessee. It was between Peter Turner and Jeremiah and Joseph Morgan involving 640 acres in a preemption. Originally the land was granted by North Carolina to Roger Topp in 1788 on waters of Bledsoe's Creek. George Reif probably was not related to Christopher or Christian Rieff of Wilson County. George seems to have arrived in Tennessee at an earlier date than Christopher and Henry Rieff.

**Rifes etc. - Frederick County, Maryland**

The 1790 Frederick County, Maryland, census included men with the exact names thought to have been in this Reiff/Rife/Rieff family. They included two Jacobs, Henry, Christian, Joseph and Christopher. The surname spelling varied from Rife/Riffe to Riffe. Several researchers have wondered if Christopher and son Henry, who were later of Wilson County, Tennessee, were two of the Rifes named here. It is possible Christian or Christopher moved up and down the Shenandoah Valley before going into the Montgomery- Wythe County area of Virginia.
General Christopher Riffe - Frederick County, Maryland and Kentucky

General Christopher Riffe of Casey County, Kentucky, was reportedly born in Frederick County in 1764. He married Mary Agnes Spear or Spears in 1783 and supposedly immediately went to Kentucky. It is not known to this writer from which Rife family General Christopher Riffe descended. He should not have been in Frederick County, Maryland for the 1790 census, so if the family tradition is correct, who was this Christopher?

Please note: This material is incomplete and may prove inaccurate in places with more research, but because of the amount of time spent researching this family by several researchers, it is time to pass it on to future generations.

Acknowledgments

The author is particularly grateful for the assistance of Mrs. Evelyn Anderson, Mr. Harry Reiff, Reba Staggs, Pauline Webb, Annette Burgert and Marie Ellis. Another individual to recognize is Mr. Joel Ross who recorded the gravestone inscriptions of the Bryants, Rieffs and Rosses at an earlier date. All the descendants of Christopher/Christian/Chrisly Rieff and Mary Welschans are indeed grateful to Mr. Hugh Gwynn for protecting the loose gravestones within Gwynn Cemetery on the former property of John and Hannah (Ross) Rieff.
Sources and Notes


33 Pauline Webb, Correspondence 1988-2002. (Residence: Springfield, Missouri.) She shared a copy of a letter and map of Wilson County from Mr. Joel Ross of Gallatin, Tennessee, prepared in 1990. The map reflected the early properties of Ross and Rieff families. The letter included inscriptions of early grave markers of Reiff, Ross and Bryant family members. It is the only known recording of these grave markers when they were more legible.

104 Mrs. Theodore Anderson, Correspondence and Records 1970s. (Residence: Hendersonville, North Carolina.)


134 Reba Staggs, Correspondence 1978-1990's. (Residence: Rolla, Missouri)


220 "Petitions to the General Assembly of Tennessee," *Ansearchin' News*, 32/33 (Winter 1986), pp. 149-150. The signature of Chrisley (?) Rife was transcribed as such. The actual signature was obtained by Pauline Webb.33 It is barely readable as transcribed.

223 Cammie Cahill Boester, "General Christopher Riffe, Pioneer, Soldier, and Statesman" (prior to 1965).


305 Richard A. Koppe, "A Place to Rest, to Play or Just to Be, A Documentation of the History, Geography, and Architecture of Kessler Mountain, Washington County, Arkansas," *Flash Back* (Washington County Historical Society, Fayetteville, Arkansas) 34, No. 1 (Feb 1984). This article listed other issues with information on the Rieff family.

Margaret B. Scoggins, "Abstracts of Marriages, Deaths and Other Information, 1843-1853, Banner of Peace and Cumberland Presbyterian Advocate, 6 No. 11 (6 Aug. 1847). This material was apparently abstracted by Margaret B. Scoggins in 1988. It is at the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

Henry Rieff, journal or diary kept prior to his death in 1824. Material was later added to by Henry's son Taurus O. Rieff. The original journal was in the hands of Mr. Delford Rieff of Prairie Grove, Arkansas in the 1990's.


William J. Hinkle, Church Record of the First (Trinity) Reformed Church at York, Pennsylvania, 1744-1853, pp. 2, 3, 4 and 7. Title page stated, "Finished Jan 1938 and typed Aug 1942."

Colleen, Peyton, Correspondence, 1993. (Residence: San Jose, California)

"The Natchez Expedition 1813," Ansearchin News Quarterly, (Tennessee Genealogical Society, Memphis, Tennessee, 1954-59) Sorry the exact volume and issue were not recorded by the author. Another article from that periodical was "Tennesseans in Arkansas," 'Americus Vespucius Rieff,' Vol. 33, No. 3, 1985, It was apparently taken from Goodspeed's History, 1891. Notes were taken by Pauline Webb. This writer has not seen the article.


545 Henry James Young, "Notes and Documents Concerning the Manorial History of the Town of York, York County, Pennsylvania," Special Publication 47, January 1992, Published by The South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, Inc.


REIFF/RIFE

from

Research Notes on Knight and Lomax Allied Families

by

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(1993)
REIFF/RIFE\(^1\) - Probably Palatinate (Germany) or Switzerland, Pennsylvania, Virginia

The first generation involved three brothers named Abraham, Jacob, and Hans Reiff/Rife.\(^{104, 106}\) (See Hans below.) Mrs. Anderson stated they arrived in Germantown, Pennsylvania about 1718.\(^{104}\) Abraham lived in Franconia Township, Montgomery County (then Philadelphia County.). He married Barbara Meyer and they went to Leacock Township, Lancaster County about 1745. However, he died near Pottstown, Chester County in 1763 leaving a will which named his children.\(^{106}\) Jacob Reiff married Elizabeth Kaufman/Coffman and had land in 1741 in Hempfield Township, Lancaster County. A deed there in June 1758, after he was deceased showed his children.\(^{122}\) The three brothers were Mennonites.\(^{106}\)

Hans Reiff had land in Lower Salford Township, Montgomery County. "Hans came into the forest and built his log cabin in 1718."\(^{123}\) In 1737 Hans and wife Ann sold land in that township.\(^{123}\) Hans may have remained there until 1741 because his wife Ann was buried at Salford Mennonite Church Cemetery. A daughter Barbara who died in 1773 is buried there too. They had other children: Ann who married Peter Lehman, Henry (See him below.), John or John Jacob, and Abraham.\(^{104, 106}\) According to Mr. Reiff, Hans Reiff's will in Lancaster County mentioned his beloved brothers Abraham and Jacob, so it is from this record that it is known the three were brothers. Hans died about two years before his son Henry.\(^{106}\)

Henry Reiff married Frena Stoner.\(^{104, 106}\) Henry and Frena Reiff had children Christian born in 1734 (See him next.), John, Henry (sic) who married Anne, Jacob who married Ann Elizabeth, Anna who married Peter Relst and Elizabeth who married Henry Nissley. When Henry Reiff died in 1755 these children were under age 21.\(^{104}\) The will is reported to be in Lancaster County.

"Elizabeth Hottel, sixth child of Charles and Barbara Hottel, was born near Toms Brook, Virginia about 1758; married first Christian Rife (Reiff). To them six daughters were born."\(^{103}\)

There has been speculation that Christian may have had a wife prior to Elizabeth Hottel. Her name might have been Mary as Mrs. Anderson believed her name appeared on a deed along with Christian in Spotsylvania County, Virginia.\(^{104}\) Christian Reif was in Shenandoah County in 1787 when he and Elizabeth deeded land to John Reif of Rockingham County. John might have been Christian's brother or his son?\(^{104}\) The above material on Christian Reiff was not verified. Christian Riffe (sic) was present in Shenandoah County when the 1787 tax list was taken.

The six daughters of Christian and Elizabeth (Hottel) Reiff follow. Esther married John R. Runion in 1791 and lived in Rockingham County, Virginia.\(^{103}\) Elizabeth was born 3 Dec 1774, Woodstock, Virginia and died 19
Oct 1854 in Washington County, Indiana. She married Nicholas Naugle 4 Nov 1794 in Shenandoah County, Virginia. (See NAUGLE/NAGLE.) (See this couple below.) Elizabeth’s birth, marriage and death dates were taken from an application paper for the National Society United States Daughters of 1812. The author has no further details on the application. Mary married Henry Haun of German parentage in 1792. Regina married John Fried/Freed in 1794. Christena born in 1778 married David Naugle/Nale in 1802. (See more on this couple under NAUGLE.) Susannah married Joseph Freed, son of John in 1799. Marriage dates were taken from Shenandoah County marriage records. The order of the children is unknown.

The July Court Term of 1793 of Shenandoah County showed Christian Rife’s estate being settled. Elizabeth Rife was the administratrix. His personal inventory amounted to £53 5 shillings and 4 pence. Among the items were "a parcel of Clock-maker tools, unfinished clocks" and "a parcel of German books". Many Rife/Reiff’s followed the trade of clock making.

After Christian Rife’s death Elizabeth Rife married Andrew Zerite (Zirckle) in 1794 in Shenandoah County. Elizabeth made her will in 1806 leaving her estate to her six daughters. The will was probated in 1819 and her son-in-law, John Runion, was the executor.

David Naugle/Nall and Christena Reiff had a daughter Christena Nail who married JOHN CAIN in 1832 in Washington County, Indiana. He was a son of Martha (Knight) Cain.

Also living in Lower Salford Township, Montgomery County was John George or Hans George Reiff who appeared to have been a little older than the Mennonite brothers. Mr. Harry Reiff stated Hans George Reiff was of no known relationship to the brothers. Hans George Reiff’s family tended to be of the German Reformed Church. He died about 1727 and his will named his children. His wife was Anna Maria. It is difficult to separate Hans George Reiff’s family from those of the three brothers, so the reader should be aware of this family. Hans George Reiff’s land actually adjoined Hans Reiff’s land. Hans George Reiff is Mr. Harry Reiff’s ancestor. The descendants of all four Reiff lines intermingled in Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky. Much confusion has arisen in sorting the Reiff families out. Mrs. Anderson’s ancestor was an Abraham Rife who came to Washington County, Indiana about 1814.

Both Mrs. Anderson and Mr. Harry Reiff have conducted extensive research for which the author is grateful. It is hoped this brief sketch will provide clues to other researchers for continued research.

Mrs. Osie Alice McDowell Ingalls, Correspondence 1970’s. The collection includes genealogical materials by several researchers including Mrs. Robert Ingalls (later Mrs. John Wallace Clark); Colleen Pennington; Elva Cain; Rev. A.L. Meredith of French Lick, Indiana, 1932; and material such as obituaries and family files from Stevens Memorial Museum, Genealogy Room, Salem, Indiana. The Indiana State Library, Genealogy Department, Indianapolis, Indiana houses much of Mrs. Ingalls’ collection. (Deceased)

104 Mrs. Theodore Anderson, Correspondence and Records 1970's. (Residence: Hendersonville, North Carolina)


WELCHANS, WELSHANCE, WILSCHANCE

of

SWITZERLAND,

ALSACE [FRANCE-GERMANY],

PENNSYLVANIA

WEST VIRGINIA, ETC.

by

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WELSCHANS, WELSHANCE, WILSCHANCE etc.

Switzerland, Alsace [Germany-France], Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia etc.

The purpose of this research was to find the family of Mary Wilschannah who was born about 1750 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and who reportedly married Christopher Rieff [about 1769]. She died in Wilson County, Tennessee in 1830 in her 80th year. This information was presented as a Rieff family tradition. (See REIFF.) This writer believes Mary was probably the mother of Susannah Reiff who married Jonathan Lomax 6 Feb 1806 in the Wilson County area of Tennessee. Susannah was the author's great, great, great grandmother.

No research indicated the existence of a family named "Wilschannah," but there were records of a family named "Welschans, Welschhans etc." with variant spellings who had a close association with a Reiff family in York County, Pennsylvania which until 1749 was part of Lancaster County. It is reasonable to believe this was really Mary's name and her family. The origins of the York County Welschans family follow below:

Switzerland and Alsace [now France]

Abraham Welschans, Joseph Welschans and Hans Jacob Reiff arrived in Pennsylvania on the ship Robert & Alice from Rotterdam 3 Sep 1739. A total of 213 were on board—78 men, 57 women and 88 children. They were all said to have come from Kirrberg, Alsace, [now] France.

Alsace was a battleground between French and Germanic peoples for centuries. In the 700's Alsace came under the control of Charlemagne when he was King of the Franks, but his grandsons divided his empire and it became German until the 1500s when France gained control. Literally for centuries Alsace was divided into small domains directly controlled by one royal overlord or another. Under France the Catholic Church was the official church, with attendance at the Lutheran or Reformed Churches forbidden. Louis XIV of France controlled the region until his defeat in 1697, so in 1698 the area was returned to the jurisdiction of the Counts of Nassau, and worshiping at the Lutheran Church was once more approved. Records in Lutheran and Reformed Churches began being kept by ministers and members of the Welschans and Reiff families appeared in them.

It is not known with certainty if the Welschans family came from Switzerland, but the circumstances suggest it: A man named Huldreich Zwingli originated a reformed way of worshiping about 1519 in Zurich, and it spread to Berne and elsewhere in Switzerland and soon beyond it. The church Zwingli established became known as the Reformed Church.

"After the defeat of Louis XIV in 1697, many Swiss families came to Alsace to repopulate and do the farm work. They appear in large numbers in the parish records at Diedendorf Reformed Church." Much of the population had died of plague and from the Thirty Years War, the last
great religious war. Mrs. Burgert said further, "Canton Bern provided the majority of Swiss into the Alsatian [Alsace] territories. In Nassau-Saarwerden a total of 441 families with identified origins arrived in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, over 400 of them from Canton Bern, and only 14 from Canton Zurich, plus a few from other Cantons." 

Switzerland has four official languages i.e. German, French, Italian and another language seldom used. The northern part of Canton Bern is not far from the present day French and German borders, so the Reiff, Welschans and allied families were likely of mixed heritage before arrival in Alsace about 1700. Mrs. Burgert attempted to match Welschans records at Diedendorf Reformed Church in Alsace with records of Welschans and Reiff immigrants in Pennsylvania, and she seemed to have succeeded.

The fathers and/or grandfathers of the Reiff and Welschans immigrants probably were born in Switzerland, but some spouses could have been “true” Alsatians, however. They could have had a long heritage of being French-German etc. Some of the spouse’s names have the appearance of being particularly French or German. An example was Jean Schwing whose surname was also shown in Diedendorf Church Book as Join, Jouin, or Lajoin. “Jean” is the French name for “John.” (The Jouin or Schwing family is described further under “Brion Family.”)

At the time the Welschans immigrants came to Pennsylvania in 1739 the area in Alsace was controlled by the Counts of Nassau Saarwerden. The immigrants would have been considered Germanic and would have probably spoken German. By the time of the French Revolution in 1789 the people generally were pro-French. The reader should be aware that the history given here is an oversimplification of a complicated situation. (Additional historical background of Alsace is shown under RIEFF.)

Today the region is located in the northern part of the Department of Bas-Rhin in France. Tourists like to visit, because of the Romanesque churches, villages little changed since the Middle Ages, hill sides covered with grape vines and other attractions. A typical statement of this French-German legacy is that they live like Frenchmen but work like Germans.

The Reiff and Welschans families were recorded at Diedendorf Reformed Church for which records began in 1698. The location in Northern Alsace for the two families usually given in Mrs. Burgert’s book is Kirrberg= 67320 Drulingen. She said, “Although the old spelling of place names is maintained, the modern [French] version, complete with a five-digit zip code identification is given in each family entry.” Drulingen is apparently the approximate location of Kirrberg and area about 1700. Detailed maps of France still show places named “Kirrberg,” and “Diedendorf” less than 10 miles from Drulingen. A Welschans abstract from Diedendorf Church follows:

**Abraham Welschans**

Alsace, France

"Abraham Welschhans, son of Jacob Welschhans of Kirrberg married 18 July 1700 Anna [Maria] Haschard, daughter of Isaac Isachard [q.v. Haschar]. Abraham was said to have been a school master by a correspondent. They had children: Margaretha born 10 July 1701; Maria
Johanna born 20 Jun 1702; Anna Judith born 10 Mar 1705; Maria Magdalena born 30 Oct 1707; Johann Henrich born 24 Jun 1710; Abraham baptized 26 Feb 1713 with sponsors Abraham Brion, Georg Hachar, Isaac Hachar, and Susanna Georg, wife of Jacob Pilla; Joh. David baptized 5 Apr 1716; Johann Jacob baptized 19 Feb 1719; Johanneta baptized 3 June 1721; and Maria Elisabetha baptized 27 Jun 1723.

The Haschar(d) family of Kirrberg were closely allied with the Welschans family. Heinrich Haschar(d) served in the Royal French Swiss Regt. Wittmar in 1749 previous to emigrating about 1753, but on 10 Nov 1750 at Rauweiler he [Heinrich] married Johanetta Jamais, daughter of Jacob Jamais and wife Elisabeth nee Welschans. The names Haschar(d) and Jamais appear to have had French origins. The same may have been true of the Welschans family. The brothers Abraham and Henry Haschar emigrated to America.

Bob Schamber had some additions to the Welschans information. "Abraham's father Jacob Welschans' wife was Susanna Guillemin and he died about 1700, Kirrberg. Isaac Haschard's wife was Judith Ricard and their daughter Anna Maria Haschard was born about 1680 in Heringen, Lixheim." Daughter Maria Magdelena Welschhans above married Joseph Schamber about 1728 near Kirrberg, Alsace. Their son Jacob Schamber was an ancestor of Bob Schamber. Son Abraham Welschans born in 1713 arrived in Pennsylvania on the ship Robert and Alice from Rotterdam 3 Sep 1739. (Abraham's family follows on the next page.)

Lancaster or York County, Pennsylvania

Some members of the above Welschans family settled in the York County area of Pennsylvania. York County formed from Lancaster in 1749. The fact that the Welschans and Reiff families attended the same church in Alsace is significant, because the two families had a continued association with one another and an affiliation in the Reformed Church in York County.

For example, Abraham Welschans and Jacob Reiff were listed among the more prominent persons to be original members of First Reformed Church before 1754. Later the church was called Zion Reformed Church. "The church building on the original site, was remodeled and improved a few years ago." The statement was made prior to 1886. The church predated the formation of the county and was associated with the settlement of the town of York in 1742 where it is located. Except for records kept by Rev. Jacob Lischey who served the church and others, the early records were burned in a fire in 1797 except for one book. Thus, researchers on the Reiff and Welschans families are handicapped in outlining the families of these early immigrants.

Several records point to a close relationship between the Reiff and Welschans families in York County, Pennsylvania. For example, Anna Magdelena Reiff, daughter of Jacob and Anna Elisabeth Reiff, was christened 17 Aug 1760. Anna Magdelena Welschhansin was a sponsor and became her namesake! The end of Magdelena's name denotes the female spelling of Welschans. Anna may have been a daughter of Joseph and Magdelena Welschans shown on page 7. Joseph Welschans was one of the immigrants from Alsace.
Conclusion: It is logical to believe that Christopher/Christian Reiff, Rife or Rieff and Mary/Maria Wilsichannah or Welschans, who are discussed in this material, were children of two of the three immigrants who came from Alsace in 1739. Christopher may have been a grandson, however. It became a hypothesis and resulted in much research which is here summarized.

Abraham Welshhans, Immigrant 1739

Abraham Welshhans above who was baptized in 1713 in Alsace is likely the one who had a wife named Anna Margaret/Margaretha Bryon or Brion as found in a baptism and birth record of their daughter Anna Catharine Welschhans in York County, Pennsylvania. It appeared Abraham Welschans married into the Brion family of his baptismal sponsor from Diedendorf Reformed Church in Alsace. This is supporting evidence Abraham Welshhans in York County was the same Abraham in Alsace. It is unknown where the marriage took place, however.

BRION FAMILY

Alsace, France

Margaretha (Brion) Welshhans’s grandfather, parents and siblings were recorded at Diedendorf Reformed Church, Kirrberg=Drulingen, Alsace,[now] France. Her father was Jacob Brion, miller at Kirrberg who was a son of Abraham Brion. He or a member of his family probably was the sponsor for Abraham Welschans baptism in 1713. Jacob Brion married Maria Jouin, daughter of Jean Jouin [Schwing] as recorded 7 Feb 1706 at Diedendorf Reformed Church. Jacob and Maria Brion’s children were recorded as follows: *Peter Paul Brion baptized 14 Nov 1706, Abraham Brion baptized 31 Oct 1708, Abraham Brion baptized 8 Jan 1710 whose sponsors were Abraham Brion from Kirrberg, Samuel Wenger from Kirrberg and Maria Catharina Widershrim, nee Brion, Joh. Jacob Brion baptized 31 Jul 1712 [q.v.], Anna Catharina Brion baptized 24 Feb 1715, Maria Magdalena Brion baptized 1 Jan 1718, Anna Margaretha Brion baptized 9 Mar 1721 and Johann Francis Brion baptized 6 Feb 1727.* Margaret Brion became the wife of Abraham Welschans about 1740. Conclusions: The Brion and Welschans families definitely knew one another in Alsace. The name “Jean Jouin” was French. “Brion” may have been French, too.

Berks County, Pennsylvania

Sons Abraham and Jacob Brion arrived in Pennsylvania on the Lydia in 1741. Jacob was said to have been the one whose family was recorded at Moselem Lutheran Church, Richmond Township, Berks Co, Pennsylvania where his children Daniel, Eva, Margaret and George Brion were recorded. The parents, Jacob Brion and Maria Jouin probably did not come to America.

It is unknown if Margretha Brion arrived single in Pennsylvania with her brothers Abraham and Jacob Brion on the Lydia in 1741 or married Abraham Welschans before leaving Alsace. Judging from the approximate birth date of son Jacob Welschans, it appeared Margretha Brion and Abraham Welschans must have arrived married unless Jacob and Abraham Welschans had a different mother, and that is definitely possible. If Margretha arrived married with her husband Abraham Welschans in 1739, she was under 18 years old when she married in Europe.

Abraham and Jacob Welschans signed Lischy’s Constitution at York on 17 Mar 1745. Abraham also signed the Trinity (First) Reformed Church doctrine in 1754.

A deed of indenture between Christian [also probably called Christopher] Rief of York Township and John Rief of Newberry Township, York County in 1772 showed Abraham Welshhans as an adjoining land owner. Some evidence suggests that Christian and John were.
brothers and sons or grandsons of Jacob Reiff the immigrant in 1739. (See RIEFF2.) Abraham Welschance in the deed was likely Mary (Welschance) Rieff's father, brother or at least a relative. Mary or Maria Welschance would have had ample opportunity to meet her future husband, Christian [Christopher] Rief, since the Welschance family were neighbors both in Yorktown and York Township on the land which adjoined. Both families attended the same church.

Tax lists of York County from about 1769 to 1774 included Joseph, Jacob, David and Abraham Welshance. They were in York Township. In 1779 a tax list showed the borough of York had Jacob, Joseph, William, Abraham Sr. and Abraham Welschance. In 1761 Abraham Welshance was an adjoining land owner in a deed involving George Hertzog in York Township. It appears that Abraham Welschans Sr. died some time after 1779 and before 1798 as note the record to follow:

In 1798 Abraham Welshhantz, of Manchester Township, administered the estate of Anna Margaret Welshhantz, widow, of Borough of York. Also bound in the estate were Jacob Welshhantz and Ludwig Shries(?) both of the Borough of York. They were bound in the sum of $150.00. Abraham and Jacob were likely Margaret and Abraham's sons shown below. All but Abraham signed their names. Only the one page for this estate was found, so there is probably no more to be learned unless it is in York County land or court records.

There are records of Abraham and Margaret (Brion/Bryon) Welchans' children in both Christ Lutheran Church of York and First Reformed Church of York, Pennsylvania. The christening records for their children from Rev. Jacob Lischy's private register begin with 4. MAGDELENE ELIZABETH WELSCHANS. Lischy served several German Reformed Churches in the York County area and among them was First Reformed Church of York. The records to follow were provided by the York County Historical Society. Sponsors were often related so were included.

Children of Abraham Welschans and Margaret/Margaretha Brion or Bryon:

1. ABRAHAM WELSCHANS was perhaps the eldest son, but no birth record has been located for him. He may have been born in Europe or even on the way to America. It is felt there was a son by this name because he administered Margaret Welschans' estate in 1798 in York County. He also appeared on the tax list in 1779 with Abraham Welschance Sr. Margaret might not have been his mother.

2. JACOB WELSCHANS was born about 1740 or even earlier, because a record at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in York, Pennsylvania, indicated that "Jacob Welschans' single son of Abraham, was a witness for Jacob Grier born or baptized 25 Jul 1759." The author has not seen the actual record as it came from a correspondent. Margaret might not have been Jacob's mother. Jacob helped administer Margaret's estate with Abraham above. Jacob could be one of the ones on page 12.

3. ANNA CATHRINE WELSCHANS was born 9 Oct 1742 and baptized 7 Nov 1742 as recorded at First Reformed Church in Lancaster County by Rev. John B. Rieger.543 This record showed Margaret's maiden name as Brion. The sponsors were Jacob Welschhans and wife Elizabeth
Schlepp[i]. It would appear Jacob and Abraham Welschans were brothers in Alsace, so Jacob was Cathrine's uncle. (Jacob is on page 10.)

4. MAGDELENE ELIZABETH WELSCHANS was christened 23 May 1745 with Math. Burckhardt, Friedreich Burckhardt, Magdelena Schlebin and Elisabeth Caperin [Coriper or Caper] as sponsors.

5. MARIA [MARY] MAGDELENA WELSCHANS was christened 30 Apr 1749 with sponsors Joseph Welschhans and Magdelena. Joseph was probably the immigrant who came with Abraham to Pennsylvania. (See page 7.) The name, "Mary," in brackets is the name in English. In the Bible, "Magdelena" is "Magdelene" i.e. Mary Magdelene. York County clerks recording legal documents tended to spell German names using the English versions of these names such as Mary, Henry, Elizabeth, Margaret, John, William etc. but the ministers usually used the German names.

6. ANNA MARIA [MARY] WELSCHANS was christened 28 Apr 1751 and Gorg Schwob and Anna Marie were sponsors. She was probably the one known as Mary Wilschannah (sic) who married Christopher Rieff as shown in the Rieff tradition on page 1.107 (See RIEFF.) Their marriage date was about 1769 in Pennsylvania. Mary was said to have been born about 1750 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.107 Her birth date was established from her age at death. Therefore, the baptism date of 1751 for Anna Maria was close to the birth date, and in fact could well have occurred in the year 1750. York County formed from Lancaster County in 1749 so Mary or Maria's birth could have been remembered in people's minds as Lancaster County. Although this birth and baptism fit from the age standpoint for Christopher's wife, it is possible Mary was really a daughter of Joseph Welschans. He was the other immigrant from Alsace with Hans Jacob Reiff. (See "Joseph Welschhans, Immigrant 1739" on page 7.)

An Anna Maria Welschhans was a witness for Johann Jacob Erich on 7 Aug 1769 at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in York, Pennsylvania. It was probably a baptism. The author has not seen the record, as a correspondent provided the information. Anna Maria may or may not have been the one in the baptism record. Note that on page 12 a Jacob Welschans did have a wife Anna Maria in 1767.

The name "Maria" or "Marie" in German translates to "Mary" in English. Although the name "Anna" was part of her name, the middle name was the one normally used. It might appear that after her marriage her name "Maria" became "Mary" permanently, but this really is not known because no record has been found of her with her husband.

Mary's children are shown under RIEFF.2 Mary Rieff died in her 80th year in 1830 in Wilson County, Tennessee.107 She may be buried near her husband in a family cemetery originally owned by Hannah (Ross) Rieff's family, but the stones are not legible today. (See RIEFF -- 9. JOHN RIEFF.) She may possibly be the "Mrs. Rieff" buried in Old Nashville Cemetery in Nashville.270 (See 11. JOSEPH RIEFF.) Mary (Welschans) Rieff is the subject of this summary.

Conclusion: The somewhat negative evidence is that neither "Abraham" nor "Margaret" appear among Mary and Christopher Rieff's children. However, it is felt that one of the two Welschans immigrants in 1739 was Mary (Welschans) Rieff's father. Perhaps future research can determine.
7. DANIEL WELSCHANS was christened 24 Jun 1753 and Hans Gorg Hertzog and Anna Maria were sponsors.

8. JOH: WILHELM [William] WELSCHANS was christened 25 May 1755 and sponsors were Abraham Kieffer and Christina. [Note: On 13 May 1766 a Jacob Welschance married Christina Kieffer as shown on p. 12.]

9. ELISABETH WELSCHANS was christened 31 Jul 1757 with sponsors John Ob Jun. and Catharina.

10. JOHANN HEINRICH [JOHN HENRY] was christened 9 Dec 1759 and sponsors were Heinrich Wolff and Anna Catharina.

11. ANNA BARBARA WELSCHANS was christened 25 Nov 1761 with sponsors Johannes Kontz and Anna Catharina.

12. JOHANES [JOHN] WELSCHANS was christened 3 Jun 1764 and sponsors were Johannes Kontz and Catharina.

13. EVA ELISABETH WELSCHANS was christened 27 Jul 1766 with sponsors Carle Bernett and wife. This last christening took place at [Wolf's] St. Paul's Lutheran and Reformed Church, Manchester Township, York County.

Welschans Gunsmiths

Some members of the Welschans family of York County were well known gunsmiths and locksmiths. These included a Jacob Welschans Sr. and Joseph Welschans Sr. and Jr. For example, Joseph Welschans Sr. agreed to do smith work for the Courthouse in York County in February 1754. Jacob Welschans made flintlocks for the militia during the Revolutionary War. Conrad Welschans made muskets for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1801. He is shown on page 12.

Joseph Welschhans, Immigrant 1739

The other immigrant in 1739 with Abraham Welschans and Jacob Reiff was Joseph Welschans. His name was sometimes spelled “Welschantz or Welschhans” in records in Pennsylvania. He was projected to have been the son of Hans Peter Welschans who was a son of Jacob Welschhans of Kirrberg in Alsace. Hans Peter Welschhans married Susanna Fuhrmann, daughter of Abraham Fuhrmann of Berg on 6 Dec 1705 in Alsace, [now] France. Their son Joseph Welschhans was baptized 9 Dec 1714. Sponsors were Peter Zeller, schoolmaster in Kirberg; Joseph Schneider, citizen and weaver in Kirberg; and Anna daughter of Isaac George.
It is possible Hans Peter Welschhans and Abraham Welschans who married 18 Jul 1700 in Alsace were brothers and both sons of the same Jacob of Kirberg in Alsace, but Mrs. Burgert did not state that. Jacob was shown as Abraham's grandfather on page 2. If Abraham and Hans Peter were brothers their children Abraham born 1713 and Joseph born in 1714, would have been cousins. It would have been cousins who boarded the boat to come to Pennsylvania in 1739 with Hans Jacob Reiff.

Joseph Welschans' mother being named "Susannah" could account for the name appearing among the children of Christopher/Christian Rieff and Mary/Maria Welschans. (See REIFF.2) Another of their children was named "Joseph," so this is another reason to believe Mary was the daughter of Joseph Welschans rather than Abraham.

Joseph Welschans signed the Trinity (First) Reformed Church [of York County, Pennsylvania] doctrine in 1754 and was a church elder in 1762. He did the "smith work" [locksmith work] on the courthouse in 1754. Joseph's wife was Magdalena or Anna Magdalena.388 Births of at least some of their children are shown in Rev. Lischy's Register.

One child of Joseph and Magdalena was Johan Jacob Welschhans baptized 28 Ap 1746 with the sponsor Jacob Ob and Maria Elisabetha Reiff.388 She may have been the wife of Hans Jacob Reiff, the immigrant with Joseph Welschanns in 1739. (See RIEFF.) This record is important, because it shows a continued close association with the Rieff/Reiff family in Pennsylvania. Other children of Joseph and Magdalena were Anna Catharina Welschhans baptized 8 Oct 1752, Joseph Welschhans baptized 2 Mar [May?] 1755 with sorsors Gorg Schramm and Elizabetha,388 who in another record was nee Reif and Elizabeth Welschhans baptized 9 Oct 1757.388,440 A correspondent showed another son Joseph Welschhans born 2 Feb 1760 and baptized 24 Feb 1760. Johan Peter Welschhans born 16 Oct 1761 was baptized 22 Nov 1761. The last two records are said to be at Christ Lutheran Church in York by a correspondent. Note continued close ties with the Reiff family.

It is possible Joseph and Magdalena Welschans had additional children. No records of children baptized between Apr 1746 and Oct 1752 have been found. One of them could have been a daughter Maria or Mary Welschans who became the wife of Christopher/Christian Reiff about 1769. Mary (Welschans) Rieff is the subject of this summary.

Joseph Welshans [Sr.] was pursuing a career as a locksmith and gunsmith prior to Jun 1753, because at the York County Orphans Court held in York minor orphan Frederick Boyer age 12 was to be bound and apprenticed to Joseph Welschans on 24 Jul next. Joseph was to teach him to read and write English and arithmetic as far as the rule of three direct, teach him the trade of locksmith and furnish him food and lodging. At the expiration of the term Joseph was to pay him one pair of bellows and two suits of apparel.

In historical notes and documents of the town of York, Joseph Welshantz locksmith obtained a patent for Lot # 40 on 27 Sep 1753. He or his son must have paid the quitrejt of 7 shillings sterling until 26 Apr 1809 when it was released to George Hockett [Deeds 2V, 480]. This lot was shown on a map on High Street.546 Almost across the street on Lot #42 was Jacob Reiff. He was the cordwainer or shoemaker, and probably he was the immigrant with Joseph in 1739...
Probably Lot #40 was the site of Joseph Welshans’ gun and locksmith business. Much has been written about the guns made by the Welshans family.\textsuperscript{167, 545}

“Joseph Welshans, locksmith, obtained a ticket and built a house on Lot #81 but was unable to comply exactly with the conditions because of sickness and his right was forfeited. A second ticket was granted to George Mendenhall (Bair 65). Apparently Welshans was given another chance, for he obtained a warrant to accept 6 Sep 1753 and patent to him 27 Sep 1753 [Bk. A18:173]; quitrent 7 shillings. Joseph and wife Magdelena conveyed the lot to John Bittle 8 Aug 1758 and John and wife conveyed it to George Stoll in 1761.”\textsuperscript{545}

The deed of John and Susanna Bittle to George Stoll of York Town, butcher, was shown in a York County deed abstract. The entry stated that Lot No. 81 was patented at Philadelphia 27 Sep 1753 to Joseph Welshantz. It was designated as “Lot No. 81 containing in Breadth North and South 571/2 feet and in length 250 feet bounded Westward with Beaver Street, Southward with Lot No. 82, Eastward with a 20 feet Alley and Northward with Philadelphia Street in the town of York.” It was recorded at Philadelphia in Patent Book A, Vol. 18, p. 173.

When Joseph applied for the warrant for Lots 81 and 40 about 1753, it was part of the estate or manor established in 1741 by John, Thomas and Richard Penn, Proprietaries and Governors in Chief of Pennsylvania.\textsuperscript{545} Thus, when Joseph Welschans applied for warrants for these lots he dealt with agents of the Penns.

Joseph Welshans [Sr] was deceased prior to 12 Apr 1790 as his estate was being probated in York County. Bound in the estate were Jacob Welshhantz, Joseph Welshhantz and Jacob Littler, all of whom signed their names. No doubt Jacob and Joseph were the sons mentioned earlier.

Conclusion: The reader should keep in mind that it is entirely possible Joseph and Magdelena Welshhans were the parents of Maria or Mary Welschans born about 1750 who became the wife of Christian or Christopher Rieff. The use of names “Joseph” and “Susannah” in the Rieff family along with the close association with Jacob Rieff, projected father or grandfather of Christian or Christopher Rieff, are the circumstances which support the idea.

Some of the children of Joseph and Magdelena Welschans:

1. JACOB WELSCHANS born in 1746 was designated as a gunsmith in the 1779 Yorktown tax list and the other tax lists through 1807 and said to have been the son of Joseph Welschans Sr.\textsuperscript{167}

   A will abstract of Jacob Welschhans, gunsmith, written in 7 January 1817 in the Borough of York named a wife Susanna who was to receive one third of his estate and it named a large number of household items, a son Jacob to whom he gave his tools, daughter Elisabeth wife of James Griffith and grandchildren of daughter Catherine. Jacob signed his name. His house and lot of ground on the east side of Water Street was to be sold at public auction. Jacob helped make flintlocks for the militia during the Revolutionary War. He died in 1819.\textsuperscript{167} Could Jacob have had a wife named Anne Marie earlier? Note the record on p. 12.)
A correspondent sent a photograph of Jacob Welschans' 62 caliber American gun, Yorktown, Pennsylvania dated 1780. [The museum label shows in the photograph.] It probably belonged to this Jacob Welschans since he was a well known gunsmith. Probably he became known as Jacob Welschans Senior because he had a son by that name.

2. JOSEPH WELSCHANS JR. was born in 1755 and was said to have been the son of Joseph Welschans Sr. A sketch of Joseph Jr. appears in the source entitled "Joseph Welschans, East Main Street in 1800" as drawn by Lewis Miller. Joseph was another of the well known gunsmiths and was in business in York [town] in 1800. He was said to have likely been the one with his brother Jacob and a Conrad Welschans who were attributed with the construction of the engine of the Laurel Fire Engine Company. They and others were members of the Fire Company.

? MARIA/MARY WELSCHANS might have been a daughter.

Overall Conclusions about Mary (Welschans) Rieff: This writer feels that Maria or Mary Welschans' family has been identified in Lancaster-York County sustaining the Rieff family tradition shown on page 1 under RIEFF with a revision of the spelling of her name. Whether her father was Abraham Welschans or Joseph Welschans remains unknown, but he was likely one of them.

The most solid evidence identifying Mary's origins and her family was the discovery of the 1739 Welschans immigrants and the close association with the Reiff family in both Alsace, France, and Lancaster-York County, Pennsylvania. The record of Abraham and Margaret (Brion) Welschans' daughter Anna Maria Welschans who was baptized in 1751 in the Lancaster County area was an important discovery. The Welschans association with the Brion and Hasnar(d) families further substantiated the Welschans origins in Alsace.

The absence of a marriage record or even one record showing Mary or Maria as the wife of Christopher or Christian Rieff is unfortunate indeed! There is little documentation of Mary's husband, Christopher or Christian Rieff either. The strongest evidence of his existence and really Mary's too was the fact Christian Rife was present in Frederick County, Virginia, in 1787 the year that their son John Rieff was said to have been born there.

Other Welschance/Welschhans Families of York County Area

Jacob Welschans, Immigrant 1741

Jacob Welschans baptized in 1719, son of Abraham and grandson of Jacob outlined on pages 2 and 3, was probably the one age 25 who arrived from Kirrberg on the Lydia in 1741. Mrs. Burgert also believed he was the one who married Elisabeta Schlepi daughter of Joh. Adam Schlepi 27 Oct 1740 as recorded at Rauwiler Reformed Church, Kirrberg, Alsace.

Jacob Welschans' age of 25 in 1741 gave him a birth date in 1716, but he was baptized in 1719 at Diedendorf Reformed Church. Parents did not usually wait three years to baptize a child, so his age on board the ship and in the baptism record do not quite agree but are close.
“First Reformed Church records in York, Pennsylvania showed that Jacob Welschhans and wife Elisabeth nee Schleppi had a son, Jacob Welschans born 22 Sep 1742 and baptized 10 Oct 1742. Sponsors were Jacob Schober and Abraham Hascher. Abraham and the Haschar(d) family of Alsace were mentioned on pages 2 and 3. Rev. Lischy’s records in York County showed additional children for Jacob and Elisabeth as Balthazar Welschans baptized 6 Jul 1746, and Abraham Welschans baptized in 1750. Christ Lutheran Church records showed Elizabeth Welschans baptized 29 Mar 1752 and another Elizabeth Welschans who was baptized 25 Dec 1753. Abraham son of _?_ and Elizabeth Welshans died 18 Oct 1758 aged 8 years as recorded at Christ Lutheran Church and is buried in the Reformed churchyard.

Both daughters named Elizabeth must have died because another was born in 1763 and Abraham must have died too. Abraham Haschar(d) was a member of Jacob Welschans’ mother’s family is Alsace thus confirming Jacob Welschans truly was the one who was baptized in 1719.

Mrs. Burgert did not state it, but her records show that Jacob had additional children with a wife Eva Elizabeth. Were Eva Elizabeth and Elizabeth the same woman or did Jacob have two wives? Rev. Lischy’s records showed that Jacob Welschans and Eva Elisabeth had a son Joh. Conrad Welschans baptized 19 Apr 1761 at St. Paul’s (Wolf’s) Lutheran Church in Manchester Township.

A York County deed on 16 Mar 1759 showed Jacob Welshantz of York Township, Yeoman, and Eva his wife sold 263 acres to Barnard Holtzinger of York Town. On 11 Dec 1760 at Christ Lutheran Church Jacob and Eva Welschance were sponsors or witnesses for a child baptized Eva Wood, but on 2 Nov 1763 Jacob Welshantz was deceased and in his will he appointed his son Jacob Welshantz and Henry Gerlach executors and empowered them to sell a tract of land at public vendue. The will read, “and the rest of my estate both real and personal to be equally divided between the rest of all my children Jacob, David, Conrad, Mackdelena and Eve Welshantaz to be sold by publick vendue...” Jacob, the father, apparently was not a gunsmith but was a yeoman.

The York County court on 27 Mar 1764 listed the ages of the minor children of Jacob Welschantz by their guardian Jacob Welschantz. Eva was age 10 years the 24th of Oct last. Conrad was 3 years and 1 day in March. Elizabeth was born 28 Jul last. Eva Welschantz was the widow and mother. David Welschantz orphan son was age 16 years 1st day of March. Information was provided by a correspondent. The guardian was likely the deceased’s eldest son.

The author located some probate papers involving Jacob’s estate in York County court books. i.e. Book B, pp. 54-55. The date was 30 Aug 1764 when distribution was made to the widow and legatees. The amount to be distributed was £379.16.10. Widow Eva Elizabeth was to receive one third amounting to £126.12.3. Executors Jacob Welshantz and Henry Gerlah were to pay £42.4.1 to each legatee or their guardians.

Eve Elizabeth Welshhans of York Boro widow of Jacob wrote her will 7 Jan 1792 and it was probated 12 Mar 1795. It refers to three daughters to receive her wearing apparel but only named two. It mentioned son Jacob Welshhans, daughter Magdalena wife of Henry Neas/Mees, son David Welshhans, daughter Eve wife of Christian Miller and son Conrad Welshhans executor.
She mentioned these children because each had received part of their share before her death. Likely there were one or more children who were entitled to a whole share. Eve Elizabeth made her mark. The estate was probated 12 Mar 1795. Not all sources give Elizabeth's name as Schlepp/Schleppi. There is still the possibility that Jacob had two wives—one named Elizabeth Schleppi and one named Eva or Eve Elizabeth.

Two Children of Jacob and Elizabeth/Eve(?) (Schleppi?) Welschcans:

1. **DAVID WELSCHANS** and maybe other children above moved to Charlestown and Shepherdstown, Jefferson County, West Virginia, about 1811. Some lived in Wheeling too. From there parts of the family moved to Randolph County, Illinois, and from there to Warrensburgh, Missouri, Omaha, Nebraska, and Utah.\(^{408}\) [Not all places are mentioned.] Nancy Karns stated that there is a big Welshans reunion held yearly in Follansbee, West Virginia.\(^{408}\)

   David Welschans was married to Anna Elizabeth. The following children are listed for them: Johann Heinrich, Elizabeth, Jacob, Maria Magdalena and Joseph Welschans. Johann Heinrich's birth was 10 Mar 1771 and baptism 29 Mar 1771 as recorded at Frieden Seal Church, Springfield Township, York County, but Elizabeth and Jacob were baptized at the Reformed Church in York.\(^{540}\) This material outlines several generations of this family.

2. **CONRAD WELSCHANS** appears to be the one who was a well known gunsmith who helped supply the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with muskets in 1801.\(^{197}\)

**Jacob Welschance**

A Jacob Welschance married Christina Kieffer 13 May 1766 at First Reformed Church, York County. They had a son and daughter baptized at St. Paul's (Wolf's) Lutheran Church in West Manchester Township. They were Joh. Jacob Welschance on 12 Oct 1769 and Anna Marie Welschance on Mar 1768. For Anna Marie the sponsors were Jacob Welschhans and Anna Marie. Information was sent by a correspondent. The couple to follow were apparently the sponsors named here.

**Jacob Welschhans**

Jacob Welschhans and wife Anna Maria had the following children recorded at Trinity (First) Reformed Church, York, Pennsylvania: Magdalena Welschhans was born 14 Nov 1767 baptized 24 Jan 1768 with sponsors Joseph Welschhans and wife; Heinrich Welschhans was born 31 Dec 1769 and baptized 8 Apr 1770; and Maria Elisabeth Welschhans was born 29 Mar 1773 and baptized 13 Jun 1773.\(^{388}\) The sponsors were likely immigrant Joseph Welschhans and his wife Magdalena shown on page 7. Jacob appears to have been their son but if so he was only about age 21 in 1767. He is shown on page 9 but there he had a wife Susanna.

**Conclusion:** These two Jacob Welschans men appear to have been related to the Welschans family herein described.
All three Welshans immigrants, Abraham and Joseph in 1739 and Jacob in 1741, named a son "Jacob." One could believe all three descended from the same Alsace ancestor named Jacob shown on pages 2-3 and page 7.

Jacob Welschans in Pennsylvania in 1737

A Jacob Welshans was one of six persons carried off by a "Maryland gang" while digging a grave for a child in 1737. They were conveyed to Annapolis. During this time part of York County was claimed by both Maryland and Pennsylvania. The uprising caused many Germans to leave their homes. This man was clearly not the Jacob Welschans who arrived in 1741.

Peter Welschans

A Palatine named Peter Welschans arrived in Philadelphia on the ship Samuel from Rotterdam via Deal, England, one of 340 passengers on 27 Aug 1739.

Welschans and Welshoffer Families

Eve Welschans has been recorded as marrying William Schmahl when on 21 Nov 1762 when their son Johanne was christened. Colleen Peyton examined the original record and discovered "William" was really "Killian" and that Eve had the name "Welshoffer." Jacob Reiff had a close association to Killiam Schmahl. (See RIEFF) Colleen made it clear there were both Welschans and Welshoffer families in the area.

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134 Reba Staggs, Correspondence 1978-1990. (Residence: Rolla, Missouri.)


408 Nancy C. Karns, Correspondence 1993 and "Known Original Welschans Immigrants." The author received 26 pages of material written about 1933. Compiler was R.L. Brown, New York assistance was given by Louis Welshans, Shephardstown, West Virginia and E.L. Brown, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

413 William J. Hinkle, *Church Record of the First (Trinity) Reformed Church at York, Pennsylvania 1744-1853,* finished Jan 1938[ typed Aug 1942], pp.2,3,4, and 7.

415 Colleen, Peyton, Correspondence, 1993. (Residence: San Jose, California)

440 R.W. Brown, "Welschans Family" [may not be exact title], (Residence: Syracuse, New York). The author probably only has part of this material written about 1933. Mr. Merle T. Welshans of Chesterfield, Missouri updated the material with penned in notes in 1974 it appears. It also contains a newspaper clipping from *The American Rifleman* entitled "Rarities of the Revolution." This article describes the Welschans family who were gunsmiths.

