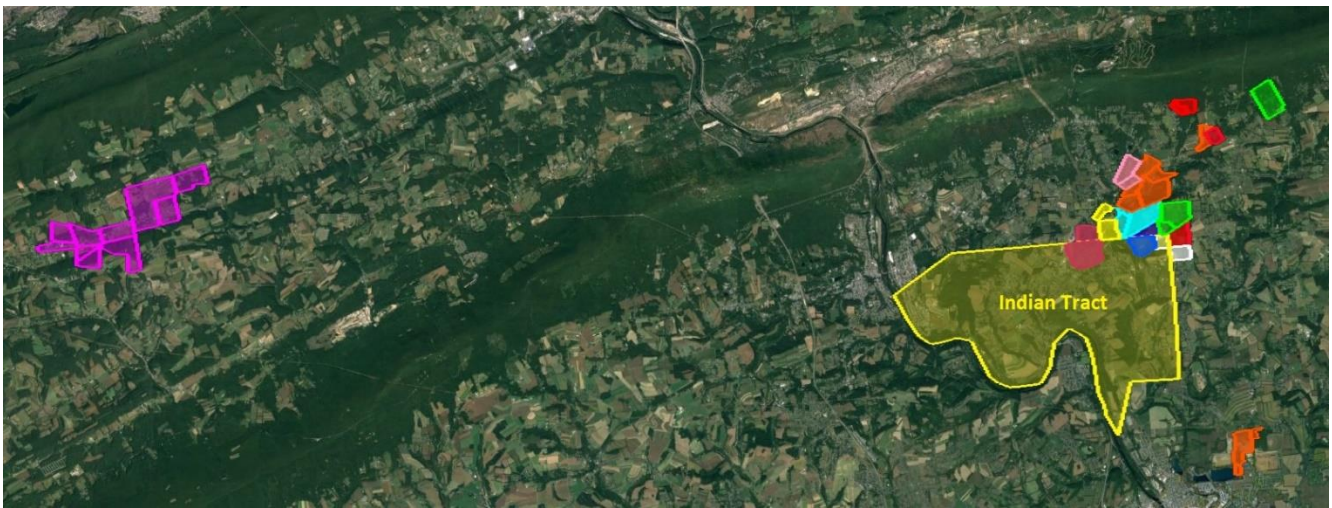


The First Dreisbach Tracts

in Northampton County, Pennsylvania
1747-1806



Google Earth satellite photo with tracts of the Simon Dreisbach family superimposed. The tracts are color-coded by the person who warranted them and who, in many cases, became the owner of the land. The Dreisbach tracts were located in Lehigh, Moore, West Penn and Allen Townships. At the time of warranting all were part of Northampton County. The large yellow area labelled the "Indian Tract" was not Dreisbach land but played a significant role in the choice of the early Dreisbach Tracts. Its story is covered in the introduction.

Marcia Dreisbach Falconer § Ardis Dreisbach Grosjean

2022

The authors want to thank David Falconer who patiently drove Marcia and Ardis to visit the areas where the Dreisbach tracts were located and who proofread many previous versions of this book. The remaining typos and errors are not his fault. We also very much want to thank Bob Riffle, historian, who kindly kept the Dreisbach name in mind as he conducted his own extensive research at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, relaying relevant information to us as he discovered it.

This book was published in August 2022 as a non-profit undertaking of the Dreisbach-Dresbach Family Association. It is the intent of the organization and the authors that the contents of this book shall be freely available to all interested persons and institutions. Portions of the book may be reproduced or quoted as needed. Additional copies can be purchased, at cost, from Lulu.com

Printed by Lulu.com August 2022

Table of Contents

Introduction: What Is This Book About?_____	3.
Jost_____	13.
Adam_____	19.
'Unknown' John _____	25.
Simon Sr_____	30.
Simon Jr_____	34.
George_____	42.
John_____	49.
Catharina Dreisbach and Henry Ulrich_____	52.
Tracts Already Spoken For_____	55.

Introduction: What This Book is About

This book is the very first compilation of the land records for the Simon Dreisbach Sr family. Some information has been published previously, but here we present all the currently known information about each tract that Simon Dreisbach Sr and his sons and daughter warranted in Northampton County in the years 1747 to 1806. The year 1747 is an absolute starting point. However we are uncertain of most of the dates of land transactions done by George Dreisbach and some may occurred as late as 1806. Finally this book does not track the history of these tracts after the death of the person who warranted them. This would require a much, much larger book.

The Simon Dreisbach family arrived in Pennsylvania in fall of 1743. Only a few years later they began acquiring land together, as a Dreisbach community in Northampton County. The first piece of land was acquired by Jost Dreisbach in 1747. A few months later his younger brother, Adam, acquired land nearby. Then Simon Sr and an unknown Dreisbach acquired two more tracts in 1750 thereby securing command of the land in a particular area. This book documents these land transactions, putting together widely dispersed records to make a coherent story about Simon Dreisbach Sr, 1743 immigrant, and his family as they became owners of a large stretch of land in Northampton County.

What this book is not about: it is not about the stories of individual Dreisbachs. To do so would make this book a mighty tome indeed. More extensive genealogical and historical family information can be found on the website of the Dreisbach-Dresbach Family Association (DDFA), at dreisbach-dresbach.org. The website houses a series of essays entitled the “*Dreisbach Emigration Research Report*” (DERR) which detail the life of Simon Dreisbach Sr, prior to departure from Oberndorf, Wittgenstein. The website also contains the “*Dreisbach-Dresbach Family Association Newsletter*”, which discusses people and their activities in Pennsylvania, including what is known about their involvement in the Revolutionary War. Additionally, a well-illustrated book about the life of Simon Dreisbach Junior, “*Simon Dreisbach Jr (1730-1806) A Most Interesting Life*”, can be purchased online at cost¹.

Departure and the first years in Pennsylvania: On 25 May 1743, Simon Dreisbach Sr, his wife Anna Katharina (known as Ketti), their five sons, Jost, Adam, Simon Jr, George and John, and their only living daughter, Catharina secretly left their home in Oberndorf, Wittgenstein, without permission of the Count. It was the only thing Simon Sr could do. He had been imprisoned on a count of forgery, then released early on the condition of paying a large yearly sum of money². Simon would have been unable to pay the money and therefore returned to prison which would render his family destitute and where he might well die. The only possible way out was to emigrate. Still, it was a brave and potentially very costly thing to do as stiff fines or imprisonment could result if they were caught.

From time of leaving until arrival in Philadelphia nearly four months passed. On September 19th, they arrived in Philadelphia on board the ship, Lydia with all family members in good health. We do not have many documents from the first few years, but we can piece together a probable story of where they went and to a lesser extent, what they did.

German immigrants generally travelled in groups, sometimes with relatives or friends but often with people they did not know but who came from the same geographical region and spoke the same dialect. By looking at the manifest of the Lydia it is clear that the Dreisbach family was traveling in such a group. The names of the men from the Lydia who signed the Oaths of Allegiance indicate that at least 23 passengers came from Wittgenstein³ but few were from the area where Simon lived, most were from an area to the east of Oberndorf. However, they were thrust together through the dangers of ocean travel, and friendships made. We strongly believe, and we have circumstantial evidence that these friendships gave the Dreisbach family significant benefits after arrival.

Traveling with the Dreisbach family, on the ship Lydia, was a young man named Christian Richstein. He was about the same age as Jost and Adam and they likely became friends. Christian was traveling to Pennsylvania to meet his older brother, Kraft Richstein, who worked for the Reeser Tannery in Germantown (Kraft would later come to own this tannery). There is good reason to believe that Kraft offered the Dreisbachs employment at the

Reeser Tannery, either as a job or as an indenture immediately after their arrival. As a result, most of the family spent the next few years in or near Germantown, PA (now a suburb of Philadelphia). Documents indicate Simon Jr had a complex network of friends who lived in Germantown⁴. Most of these people were connected in one way or another to the Reeser tannery in Germantown. Later in life both Simon Jr and his older brother, Adam, tanned or worked with leather. This strongly suggest suggests that the brothers worked at, or were indentured to, the Reeser tannery. There is no evidence to suggest Simon Sr also worked here, but it is a possibility.

What about the other family members? Jost, we believe, worked at a grist mill in Germantown, possibly the Lukens Mill. We base this on the fact that Jost was able to set up his own grist mill shortly after acquiring land. Somewhere he learned how to acquire and set up millstones, and how to build and run a mill. As a teenager, Jost may have worked at a grist mill near his home in Oberndorf to help support the family. This may have been sufficient experience for him to get a responsible job at the Luken's mill.

We believe Simon Sr's son George, at age 10, was sent to work for a millwright/cabinet maker and probably was indentured until he turned 18. At ages 8 and 5, John and Catharina were too young to be employed. Simon Sr's wife, Anna Katharina (known as Ketti), may have worked as a domestic in a Germantown or Philadelphia home or for one of the many weaving shops in Germantown.

Where and when did the family find land: We believe most of the Dreisbach family left Germantown in early spring of 1747 in search of land to call their own. Certainly Simon Sr, Jost and Adam left Germantown. Since they had travelled together as a family in the long, hard journey from Wittgenstein to Pennsylvania, most likely Ketti and the younger children, John and Catharina, travelled with the men as they went to explore for land. Based on documents, it appears Simon Jr stayed behind in Germantown. It is probable that George also did not go but was working for a millwright/carpenter somewhere. How did they travel? They would have been carrying everything they owned and everything needed to settle in the wilderness and build a barn and house. There were basic dirt roads leading north to the Lehigh River, but beyond that there were only tracks and Indian paths. Quite likely they had horned cattle, which would be needed for clearing land and farming. Somehow, they got to the northern edge of the Lehigh Valley where, in 1747, Jost and Adam applied for their first land warrants. They settled in what is now Northampton County but then was called the "Forks of the Delaware" and was part of Bucks County. It is for this reason that the earliest land records of the Dreisbach family are found in Bucks County registers.

The earliest Dreisbach tracts were on the frontier. Previously, William Penn instituted a policy that settlers could only move onto land that had been purchased from the Native American Indians. Penn had established clear title to the land up to the South Mountain, which is the southern edge of the Lehigh Valley. However, the Lehigh Valley itself was claimed by the Indians. It was the infamous "Walking Purchase" of 19 September 1737 that opened the Lehigh Valley to settlers who wanted to purchase land, including the Dreisbachs. The land claim that was made by the sons of William Penn (known as the Proprietors) as a result of the Walking Purchase, was disputed by the Indians and it may be for this reason that oral history in the Dreisbach family says the Dreisbachs purchased their land directly from the Indians.

About five years after the Walking Purchase and five years before the Dreisbachs came to the Lehigh Valley, a religious group arrived which was of great importance for the development of northern Northampton County, even though they themselves lived in closed communities. These were the Moravians, called "Herrnhuters" by the other German-speaking settlers. They established settlements at Nazareth and at Bethlehem, followed in 1746 by their mission at Gnadenhuetten above the Lehigh Gap. Moravian evangelists were frequent users of the network of Indian paths. The sprinkling of German settlers who staked out tracts as far north as the foothills of Blue Mountain, cut tracks leading from their lands to the most-used paths. Combined, these paths began a transformation into primitive roadways. Thus, the Simon Dreisbach family did not move into a totally trackless wilderness, but the existing paths, such as they were, left much to be desired. The absence of adequate roads remained a major problem for decades.

LAND TRANSACTIONS IN THE 1700's : Purchasing property and getting proof of ownership: At the time the Dreisbachs purchased their first properties, buying land was a four-step process ending with the issuing of a "patent" indicating the person owned the described land. These steps are often referred to in the text so it's worth while understanding them.

- **Application or request for a Warrant.** Until 1765, when the system was changed, the normal procedure to acquire land was to go to the Land Office in Philadelphia and pay a fee to request that a 'warrant' be issued. However, one person could carry requests and fees for warrants made by other people thus negating the need for everyone to make the long trip to Philadelphia. The warrant allowed the person to contact the Deputy Surveyor for the region. He then sent out a surveyor to produce a survey map of the property⁵.
- **Survey.** The survey map showed the outline of the tract and any year-round streams or rivers which ran through or beside the property. Often the boundaries of the property were described as going from a 'white oak' to a 'large boulder' or other feature of the landscape which could lead to boundary disputes after things like this were no longer in place.
- **Return of the survey.** Once completed, the survey was sent to the Surveyor General's office which prepared a document called a 'return' - an official description of the property boundaries which was sent back to the Land Office (e.g., returned).
- **Patent.** After all the paperwork was completed, and fees were paid, the Land Office issued a patent for the land. A patent is more complete than a 'title' and stands as the supreme title for proof of ownership of a particular piece of property. Some people patented their land right after it was surveyed, others waited years. Frequently the warrantee and patentee were different individuals but the land belonged to the person who patented it, not the person who warranted it⁶.

Terms in land records that need explanation:

The Forks of the Delaware, and Above the Forks of the Delaware. The 'Forks of the Delaware' was a loose term covering land across the southern and middle parts of what would eventually become Northampton County. The area lying north of it and running in a wide belt that followed the south slope of Blue Mountain, was given the designation, 'Above the Forks of the Delaware'. Both areas lay between the Delaware river on the east and its tributary "fork", the Lehigh River, on the west.

The Indian Tract Manor, also called the Indian Tract. This was an area of 6500 acres on the eastern side of the Lehigh River, in the north-western part of the 'Forks of the Delaware'. It covered much of what is now Northampton County's Lehigh Township, as well as part of today's Allen Township. The Indian Tract was created in 1735 by the heirs of William Penn (the Penn Proprietaries) ostensibly for the use of displaced Indians. The Indians, however, were further displaced by the Walking Purchase of 1737 and left the Lehigh Valley. In spite of this, the Proprietaries held on to the Indian Tract, allowing nobody to obtain the legal right to live there. For sixty years the area was technically closed to settlement, however squatters moved in, cleared land and built houses, but they could not obtain title to the land they occupied. Not until 1786 was the first tract regularized. Most squatters obtained ownership between 1791 and 1795 although a few did not get legal title to their land until the early 1800's⁷.

The existence of the Indian Tract was an important element in the Dreisbachs' choice of lands for settlement. Starting in or before 1747, the Dreisbachs began to stake out lands, and then to take out warrants, for land along the northern and eastern edges of the Indian Tract. They clearly planned to extend their control by also occupying the adjacent land inside the Indian Tract. They would then apply for warrants as soon as this was permitted by the Penn Proprietors. The question of how the Dreisbachs knew about the Indian Tract and that the land adjacent to it was available for settlement is an open question.

"East Side Application". Between 1765 and 1769, an "application" for a patent replaced, for a time, the previous system which began with obtaining a warrant⁸. In large part this was to allow settlers to make legal claims for the land upon which they had squatted for years. However, it was also designed to prevent land speculators from

claiming large portions of land and later reselling smaller parcels at premium prices. For this reason, the maximum area one person could make application for was 300 acres. In the four years that this system was in force, 4,160 formal applications for land patents were introduced by individuals who presented themselves at the Land Office in Philadelphia. Northampton alone had 1785 applications⁹. By making an application, a process was started that would lead to having a survey performed, then payment was to be made to the Receiver General followed, finally, by a "return of survey" to the Land Office which could then issue a patent on the land in question. The full name of this system, which applied to lands east of the Susquehanna River, was "East Side Applications". Dreisbachs and their neighbors can be seen making such applications on identical or similar dates. We don't know if they had travelled in groups to Philadelphia for this purpose, or if one or two people carried written applications and fees for other people. We will see Jost Dreisbach in Philadelphia in the first year that this system was in place, introducing an application to acquire title to a larger tract of land than that which was stated in his original warrant.

Settlement comes to a halt and the population flees: When the first Dreisbach land claims were made in 1747, the Dreisbachs were not alone. There were other people warranting land in the region just south of the Blue Mountain, the northern boundary of the Lehigh Valley. All settlement ended abruptly when Indian attacks occurred along the edges of settlements in south-eastern Pennsylvania in the winter of 1755-1756. Houses were burned, people were killed. Overwhelmed and defenceless, virtually the entire population of the northern regions of the Lehigh valley fled south to Bethlehem, Easton, or farther away to the rural areas of Bucks and Chester counties where there was less likelihood of Indian attacks occurring. Within 6 weeks of the first attacks the northern part of Northampton County was virtually empty.

The Dreisbach families went south. Some went to Tohickon, near Quakertown, in northern Bucks County. Others may have gone to Reading, Lancaster or Philadelphia. Jost's family fled south but Jost almost certainly remained behind to stay with his mill that had been converted into a defensive 'fort' called Fort Lehigh. It is quite possible that the Dreisbach men travelled back and forth between their families near what is now Quakertown and their farms in Lehigh Township.

When the Easton Peace Treaty was signed in 1758, the Indian threat diminished. Settlers and land speculators returned to the frontiers. Among these speculators were people who held office or were socially acquainted with them. William Allen, the founder of Allentown, was one such person who held large areas of Northampton County, thanks to the marriage of his daughter to one of the Proprietors, John Penn.

It is not known precisely when the various Dreisbach families returned to their farms in Lehigh Township. The earliest extant tax records from the period immediately after the French and Indian war are from 1761 and four Dreisbachs; Jost, Adam, Simon (Jr) and a John, are all listed as paying tax. From this we know they were living on their land by then, and probably had for several years.

Finding the records: Much of the information on their land warrants, surveys, returns and patents is on-line in the Pennsylvania Archives¹⁰. The surname, Dreisbach, is and has been, spelled in many ways. This complicated searching of the early warrant records. In looking for early Dreisbach Applications and Warrants we discovered documents filed under "D" and "T" as expected (at this period in time the spellings Dreisbach and Treisbach were used interchangeably.) We also found documents under "F" and "R" as "Feisbach", "Freisbach" and "Reisbach" because a copyist erroneously deciphered the initial German script capitol letter. The most unusual spelling was part of settling the estate of Jost Dreisbach's late neighbor, John Dieter, in 1759. Adam and George Dreisbach were referred to as Adam and George Trashpack who were to make an inventory of all the goods in the estate. Most likely the surname, Dreisbach, was transformed into Trashpack by some English-speaking official who spelled the name as he heard it spoken.

How is this presentation of land ownership structured: How to present this information? Should one proceed tract by tract, starting from 1747, regardless of which Dreisbach applied for it? As the number of tracts increases, this can be confusing. Should one start with the father, Simon Dreisbach Sr, and then follow the land history of each of his sons in turn, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest? In that case, we would lose sight of the chronological procession of land acquisition, as father Simon took out his first warrant after his two eldest

sons. The method selected for this presentation is to follow the chronology of the Dreisbachs as they first appear in the land records in 1747, 1749 and on into the later 1700's. However, once we have begun to discuss the land claimed by a Dreisbach, we continue to follow his further property history. This makes for continuity and a clearer grasp of each person's history and allows us to see how brothers acquired neighboring blocks of tracts, and thus to get a glimpse of the over-all pattern of the early Dreisbach lands in Northampton County.

Accordingly, we begin with Jost and then move on to Adam, father Simon Sr, an unidentified family member called 'unknown' John, Simon Jr, then George followed by his younger brother John. Finally, we include the land transactions of Simon Sr's only daughter, Anna Catharina, who married Henrich Ulrich. We mention some of the members of the third generation, Simon Sr's grandchildren, but we do not discuss their land transactions in detail. This is a first attempt at marshalling all the Dreisbach tracts in Northampton County that appear in the PA land records and there certainly are omissions including interfamily transactions. There is not only room for more research, there is a definite need for it, but we hope that this can be both an incentive and a path for future researchers to follow.

Identification of the person mentioned in the land documents sometimes is problematic. This is because the Dreisbachs, like most other families, used a small set of first names. In particular there are problems with "Simon" and "John" as well as "Jost" and sometimes with "Adam". If the person on a document was listed as Simon Dreisbach, there is an immediate problem. Which Simon Dreisbach, senior or junior, since both were alive and active over a long period of time? Sometimes this can be deciphered by the dates involved. We know that Simon Jr, the middle son of Simon Sr, was living near Reading, PA from shortly after his marriage until at least after the baptism of his second child in 1754. In a letter sent much later, Simon Jr himself says he came to Lehigh Township about 1755. However, the township was evacuated during the 1755-56 French and Indian war, further complicating identification of person by the year.

This confusion also applies to deciding which "John Dreisbach" is referred to. There was a period when the records contain an older 'unknown John' (more about him later), John the youngest son of Simon Sr, and John the oldest son of Simon Jr. All three are listed in the tax lists of Lehigh Township, Northampton County in 1776 and 1779 and 1780. We are fortunate that they are listed as: John, John Jr, and John the tanner. Only John the tanner is clearly identifiable. This is the son of Simon Jr who took over the tannery begun by his father. Who is John Jr? He is probably John the son of Simon Sr. The remaining John must be 'unknown' John Dreisbach. Other cases of not being certain which Dreisbach is meant in the land documents will occur and will be dealt with as they arise.

Numbering system for the tracts: In the numbering system below, each member of the Dreisbach family is indicated by a Roman numeral in the order in which they applied for land and not in order of their age. Jost Dreisbach as the first has roman numeral "I". Adam Dreisbach is "II", Simon Dreisbach Sr is "III", etc. All the tracts for the person will appear under the Roman numeral followed by a number. Thus, for Jost, his first tract is indicated by **I.1.** and his second tract by **I.2.** The letters behind the numbers indicate developments (generally enlargements) of the same tract. Thus, the development of Jost's first tract can be followed by **I.1.A**, **I.1.B**, etc. Development of Jost's second tract will be **I.2.A**. and **I.2.B**. etc.

If only we could see what transpired when the Dreisbach family settled in Lehigh Township in Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Some events are sufficiently documented but we know that the Dreisbachs made land transactions among themselves which were not recorded in an official format. There probably were hand-written documents exchanged but none have survived. Here we deal with official documents that were done in concert with the Land Office in Philadelphia but we mention possible family dealings.

A UNIQUE STORY: The story of the Simon Dreisbach family is unique in many ways. We have documentary evidence about the life Simon Sr led in Wittgenstein. We even have a testimony in his own words! We know what he did for a living, and we know he was not considered to be a very good farmer¹¹. We know Simon Sr, like everyone in Wittgenstein, paid very high taxes and was forced to work for the count. Unlike most, Simon Sr thought he saw a way around his ever-increasing poverty and became enmeshed in a counterfeiting scheme. The counterfeiters, including Simon Sr, were caught and Simon was sent to prison. Somehow his family had to manage

on its own. When the time for spring planting came, Simon Sr knew he had to work in the fields or his family would suffer. He petitioned the count to release him early, promising to pay the count a large sum of money in return for being allowed to leave prison and go home. This placed Simon Sr in an untenable position. He would not be able to make the yearly payments to the count and would be sent to prison. When that happened, he would not be released early a second time and he might die in prison. The only way out was to emigrate. He would never be allowed to legally leave Wittgenstein. From all of this we can be certain that Simon Dreisbach Sr had compelling reasons to emigrate and that he had some idea of what he might be able to achieve in Pennsylvania.

By 1743, as the family prepared to secretly leave Wittgenstein, Jost and Adam would have understood that their own futures lay in Pennsylvania, and as young men probably were eager for the adventure and the rewards. During the trip down the Rhine and across the Atlantic, Simon Sr, Jost and Adam, must have had many discussions about plans for life in Pennsylvania. Although we have no documentation about the specifics of their voyage, we are certain it was long, arduous and dangerous, yet the entire family arrived in Philadelphia, apparently healthy.

After arrival in Pennsylvania in 1743: The immediate concern was to make enough money to live. The years between 1743 and 1747 have only scant records but we were able to put together a network of people who influenced the Dreisbach family¹². Bernhard Reeser and Kraft Richstein, owners of a tannery in Germantown, PA, came from Wittgenstein were prime among those who helped the Dreisbachs. There is good circumstantial evidence to show that at least Adam and Simon Jr worked for them in their tannery. The Reesers had connections with the Lukens family, who owned two large grist mills in Germantown, and who were a family of famous surveyors of the Pennsylvania wilderness. Jost, we believe, worked in a grist mill after arriving, and it may well have been in one of the Lukens' mills.

Simon Jr was friends with Daniel Lukens¹³ who was the much younger first cousin of the surveyor, John Lukens. John had been a "chain man" on the survey team of Nicholas Scull when Scull surveyed the Indian Tract Manor for the Penn Proprietors and was familiar with the area of the Indian Tract. Such casual acquaintances may have given enough information to the Dreisbachs for them to begin to develop a Grand Plan involving settlement around the edge of the Indian Tract.

It's very clear that there was a plan to the choosing and warranting of the Dreisbach lands. In 1747 the Dreisbachs had sufficient money and time to look for land. Rather than head west toward Lancaster County, which is where most settlers went, the Dreisbachs travelled north to the area called "The Forks". It appears they were headed for Indian Tract Manor and specifically they were headed for vacant lands just north of it.

The land inside the Indian Tract was reserved, ostensibly for Indians who had been displaced by white settlers. In reality, it was another way for the Penn Proprietors to hold onto vast tracts of wilderness land, waiting for settlement to arrive at which point their land greatly increased in value and they sold it. However, the land outside of the Indian Tract, including that immediately adjacent to it, was open to settlement and warranting. This was where the Dreisbachs were headed. The Grand Plan had them claiming land near each other, but not touching. They were going to control the largest area of land they could and at first warrant only the most valuable pieces. These were just outside the upper right-hand corner of the Indian Tract and along its east-west boundary. Once they were settled here, the Dreisbachs would be poised to swoop in and warrant land inside the Indian Tract as soon as this became legal.

THE INDIAN TRACT MANOR: In this book we mention "the Indian Tract" many times. It played a significant role in determining where the Dreisbach family settled and therefore it is worth discussing its origin, evolution and eventual disappearance. The history of the Indian Tract can be said to go as far back as William Penn's treaties with the first inhabitants of North American. In all the documents of the 1600's, 1700's and 1800's, these first inhabitants, or Indigenous Peoples, are called "Indians". To keep confusion to a minimum, we will use the terms "Indian" and "Indians" in this book with the understanding that it is the "Indigenous People(s)" we are talking about.

William Penn wanted good relations with the Indians and insisted on buying the land on which European settlers wanted to live. His concept of owning land was based in English law where it was a commodity that could be bought and owned. The Indians had no such concept of land. Land was for people to *use* and owning land was incomprehensible. When two concepts of ‘land’ have such different philosophical bases, it is not surprising that the understanding of land ownership and control which was arrived at by Penn and by the Indians was very different.



The Indians, at least initially, were willing to allow Penn and his settlers to use the land and in return expected to receive presents for this privilege. To Penn, the presents were payments and signified a purchase and subsequent ownership of the land while to the Indians the presents were in return for usage only. A single area could be used by several Indian tribes or groups, and each ceded the right to use the land in return for presents. Penn interpreted this as buying the same land multiple times, but in essence he was only getting approval from the various Indian tribes to use the land. This difference in owning versus using the land was the cause of much of the Indian troubles. That and the pure greed of some rich settlers.

Fig. 1. Satellite Google Earth view of modern-day Lehigh Valley showing where the Indian Tract was located. Blue Mountain (white arrow) is the northern border of the Lehigh Valley. At bottom is the city of Allentown and South Mountain (white arrow), the southern border of Lehigh valley. The Indian Tract boundaries are in yellow; the blue wavy boundary is the Lehigh River.

The Delaware was the major tribe in south-eastern Pennsylvania and they were having their own problems with the Iroquois and saw Penn as a powerful ally. It was in this context they agreed to shared access to land. William Penn gave his word, a concept that the Indians understood, that new settlements would only go so far and no farther. As long as this agreement was kept, which aligned with the lifetime of William Penn, Indians and settlers mostly had peaceful relationships.

William Penn died in 1718 and his will gave control of Pennsylvania to his second wife, Hannah Callowhill and her six children, who were known as the Penn Proprietors. In the 1720’s much of the actual governing of Pennsylvania was done by James Logan. Under Logan five chiefs acknowledged that the land between the Delaware and Susquehannah rivers and which was south of the Lehigh River valley belonged to the Penns. This did not include the land called “Forks of the Delaware” which lay to the north of the Lehigh River and to the West of the Delaware River (the area where the Dreisbachs settled).

Logan was duplicitous. In 1727 he sent a survey party into The Forks with the clear intention of surveying land for sale, land that had never been purchased from the Indians. A year later, in 1728 Logan reassured the Delaware chief Sassoonan that William Penn “... made it a rule, never to suffer any lands to be settled by his people, till they were first purchased of the Indians; that his commissioners had followed the same rule”¹⁴. Logan, as a good civil servant, wanted to sell the land in the Forks to benefit the Penn Proprietors (and himself as well, but to a lesser extent). Pressing Logan were people who wanted to speculate in lands to make a fortune, chief among these was William Allen (for whom Allentown is named).

A Pennsylvania law prevented private Pennsylvanians from buying land from Native Americans, but this did not apply to men in power including William Allen. In 1729 the Penn heirs (the Proprietors) sold 20,000 acres of land to William Allen – without specifying where it was other than that it was in the Forks! The policy of the Penn Proprietors was to make money by selling land at the edge of the frontier to speculators, it didn't matter that it still belonged to the Indians. However, the land in the Forks posed a problem. The Indians did not want to give up their rich hunting ground. It became apparent that a way had to be found for the Penn Proprietors to take ownership of the Forks, and so was birthed the idea of the "1737 Walking Purchase". The events leading up to the Walking Purchase are well recorded and extremely interesting in that they show how the Penn Proprietors dealt with the Delawares. See *Promised Land*¹⁵ by Steven Craig Harper.

A plan was created by Thomas Penn, James Logan, William Allen and others to organize a walk of one- and one-half days that would determine the amount of land in the Forks that would be ceded by the Delaware Indians to the Proprietors. "Neither Penn nor Allen ...wanted the Delawares to comprehend the vastness of the land they sought"¹⁶. A map was presented to the Indian chiefs which deliberately misrepresented the area to be walked in such a way that they believed the land had already been sold by their ancestors to William Penn in 1688. That this 1688 treaty was either fictitious or greatly altered was not known to the Indians.

On September 19th, 1737, after a great deal of planning, including a preliminary walk that blazed the most efficient path, three men set out to cover as much ground as possible in one- and one-half days: James Yeates, Edward Marshall and Solomon Jennings. To the Indians, a 'walk' meant covering ground at a reasonable pace with time to rest and eat. The three walkers took no rests and walked as fast as they could – to the point that one of the men, Yeates, died a few weeks later from the exertions.

This was not the end of the deception. The walkers had gone northwest rather than directly north. When they reached the end point, after one and a half days walking, they were far inland, away from the Delaware River. Surveyors Eastburn, Nicholas Scull and John Chapman had followed at a leisurely pace behind the walkers. After the walkers headed home, the surveyors turned a survey line at right angles to the path that had been walked and by this means included vastly more land than the Indians expected. All this land, when sold, would provide a huge amount of money to the Proprietors and speculators. In the end, the 1737 Walking Purchase contained 710,000 square acres "including the land Thomas Penn had been selling since 1728, that William Allen and others had purchased and would now sell at extraordinary profits."¹⁷ Most importantly, Thomas Penn reserved large amounts for himself and his kin; part of that was a reservation called Indian Tract Manor.

The Indian Tract Manor, which contained 6500 square acres, was ostensibly for Indians displaced by settlers taking their land in the Forks. However, it was never given to displaced Indians and none ever lived there. Instead, the Proprietors held the 6500 acres off the market, and allowed nobody to warrant or purchase land within the Indian Tract. This did not deter settlers who wanted to own land. A group of Scotch-Irish had already settled within the Forks as early as 1728. German immigrants arrived a few years later and began squatting on land in the southern part of the Indian Tract. By 1747, when the Dreisbachs began their search for land, the area to the north of the Indian Tract (outside of the Indian Tract) was being warranted.

By the early 1770's all of the land inside the Indian Tract was occupied by squatters with no hope of being able to own the land they farmed. Then came the American Revolution. In 1776 the Second Continental Congress (of which Simon Dreisbach Jr was a member) ended the Penn Proprietorship. The Divestment Act of 1779 claimed 24 million acres of the Penn family lands for the Commonwealth and abolished the payment of quitrents, leaving the proprietors with 5 million acres and an annual payment as settlement for lost revenue. Included in that 5 million acres still owned by the Penn Proprietors was the Indian Tract. The Revolution did not immediately help the squatters get title to their land. As usual, the Proprietors waited until settlement had greatly increased the value of the land before allowing it to be sold. This meant that John Dreisbach, the son of Simon Sr, who had settled on land inside of the Indian Tract before 1761, did not receive title to his land until 1792. For others who lived inside the Indian Tract, it was the early 1800's before they got title to the land they had lived on for many years. The 1737 Walking Purchase resulted in the Indians no longer trusting the Penn Family or their representatives. The history between the 1737 walk and the onset of the 1755 French-and Indian War is basically a story of continuous

pressure by settlers on Indian land. Both sides committed murder and scalping and each violent incident engendered more violence. A fine description of the events between the Walking Purchase and the onset of the war can be found in the book by Steven Craig Harper, *Promised Land, Penn's Holy Experiment, the Walking Purchase, and the Dispossession of the Delawares, 1600-1763*.

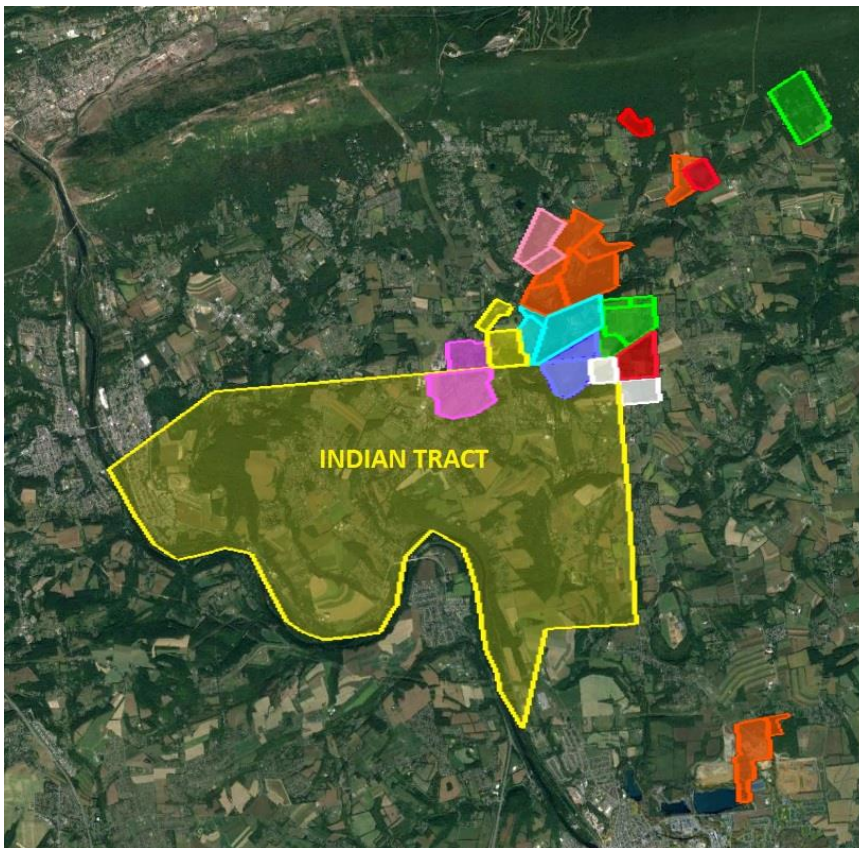


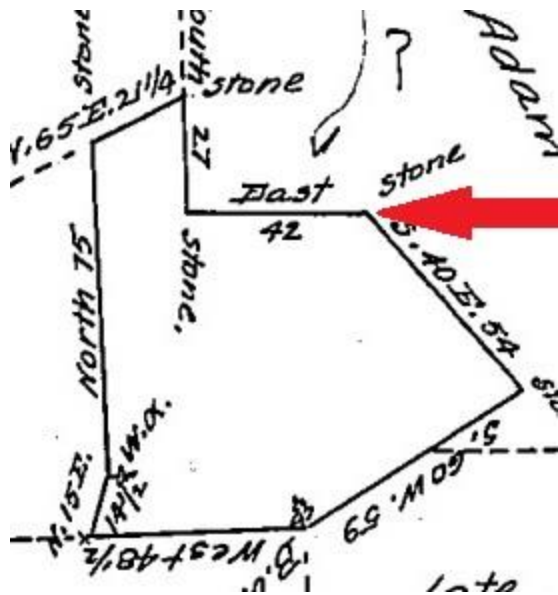
Fig. 2. Dreisbach tracts around the NE corner of the Indian Tract. These contiguous tracts made up the "Grand Plan". Tracts are color coded by original warranters: Jost – aqua, Adam – green, Simon Senior – red, Unknown John – white, Simon Junior – orange, George – deep pink, Henry Ulrich (husband of Catharina Dreisbach) – yellow, John son of Simon Jr – peach. Other Dreisbach tracts not shown on this map include multiple tracts of George in Penn Township and tracts without surveys.

How were the maps of the tracts made? The starting point for the illustrations in this book were the survey maps on the Pennsylvania Museum and Historical Commission website¹⁸. These are copies of the maps made by the surveyors in the field. The outlines of all survey tracts are composed of a series of lines between two known points. In the 1700's these points might be a rock, a fence post, or a particular tree. The surveys show the distances between points in "rods". These were literal 'rods', laid on the ground, to measure between the two points. One rod = 16.5 feet. Thus we know how long a line on a map drawn on the satellite image should be.

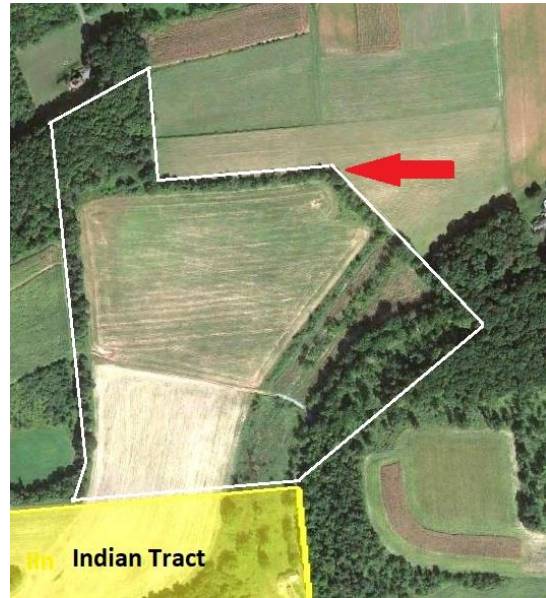
We knew approximately where the Dreisbachs settled in Northampton County and Google Earth provided us with a satellite view of the general area. Since most of the Dreisbach tracts are close to each other, if we found the location of any one tract, we could find neighboring tracts. Adam's first tract, which we dubbed "the little house" because of its similarity to a child's drawing of a house, proved amazingly easy to find.

Google Earth allows you to draw lines on its satellite image and to measure them in feet. When doing this, you point your cursor at a point on the area that seems to match the survey. As you draw a line, Google shows how long it is in feet. When you reach the same length in feet as given on the original survey, you stop. You continue until you have drawn, and measured, a shape that duplicates that found on the original survey. The lines can be in various colors and the area inside the lines can be filled with color as well. On the next page is a survey image of a tract and next to it is the satellite image of the area now with a white line we've drawn on it.

What amazed us the most was just how many tract outlines remain visible today, more than 275 years later!



Survey D13-189, Adam's "Little House" tract. Numbers are distances in rods between points.



Satellite image with white line drawn over matching field outlines. Bend (red arrow) and 'chimney' area are clearly visible.

¹ Falconer, M. *Simon Dreisbach Jr (1730-1806), A Most Interesting Life*, Pub. by Lulu.com, 2016.

² Grosjean, A. D., *The Dreisbach Emigration Research Report (the DERR)*, Numbers 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, online at dreisbach-dreisbach.org.

³ Imhof, H. *Hoffnung auf ein besseres Leben, Die Auswanderung aus Wittgenstein nach Amerika im 18. Und 19. Jahrhundert*. Pub. By Imhof, Bad Berleburg, 2018, pp. 441-442.

⁴ Falconer, M. Op. Cit. pp. 2-5.

⁵ Munger, D. B., *Pennsylvania Land Records, A History and Guide for Research*, Pub. by Scholarly Resources Inc., 1991. pp. xxix.

⁶ Ibid. p. 51.

⁷ Chidsey Jr, A.D., *The Penn Patents in the Forks of the Delaware*, Map 8, Vol. II in the publications of The Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society, Easton, PA. 1937.

⁸ McCrea, K. D., *Pennsylvania Land Applications, Vol. I: East Side Applications, 1765-1769*, pp iv - xvii.

⁹ Munger, D. B., Op. Cit. pp 74-75.

¹⁰ <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Land-Records-Overview.aspx>

¹¹ Grosjean, A. D., Op. Cit.

¹² Falconer, M., Op. Cit. p. 4.

¹³ Ibid. p. 3.

¹⁴ Harper, S. C., *Promised Land, Penn's Holy Experiment, The Walking Purchase, and the Dispossession of Delawares, 1600-1763*, pub. Lehigh University Press 2006, p. 49.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid. p. 63.

¹⁷ Ibid. p. 69.

¹⁸ Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Survey, Images of all surveys.

<https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Land-Records-Overview.aspx#.VzI0NIOrKM8>

I. JOST DREISBACH - Born in Oberndorf, Wittgenstein. Baptized 18 Sept. 1721 in Feudingén, Wittgenstein in what is now Nord-Rhein Westfalen, Germany. Died in Lehigh Township, Northampton County, PA on 17 Oct. 1794. Buried in Zion Stone Church cemetery, Kreidersville, PA. Married Elizabeth Dieter (b. ca. 1733, d. 1811). Jost was the oldest son of Simon Sr and Katharina Keller. He was a miller with both a gristmill and a sawmill that stood along Indian Creek in Lehigh Township. Built in the late 1740's, this mill existed, with various renovations until about 1930.

Jost was 14 years old when his father was put into prison in October 1735¹. From then until April 1737 when Simon Sr was released, Jost must have been the main support for the family. We believe he worked in a gristmill, possibly the mill in Rupershausen that was owned by his mother's cousin and where he could have been paid in flour and perhaps a bit of money as well. Younger brother Adam was 13 and also must have helped to support the family. Indeed, there was a family to support, in addition to mother, Katharina, Jost and Adam, there was 5-year-old Simon Jr, 2-year-old George and 6-month-old baby John.

Jost's gristmill: After the family arrived in Pennsylvania in 1743, it seems likely Jost was employed in a gristmill in Germantown. When Jost went looking for land to warrant, it's probable he was looking for property with a stream that could be dammed to form a mill pond. He found exactly that and made the first Dreisbach warrant for land capable of supporting a gristmill. Here Jost built a mill pond and a mill within the next few years. The first record of his mill is in the Pennsylvania Archives recounting of the French and Indian War² where Jost's mill is listed as Fort Lechy (Lehigh). This means that a structure, large enough to be fortified, was there by 1755 and certainly well before that.

Elizabeth Dieter was Jost's wife. She was the daughter of next-door neighbor, John Dieter. John Dieter died in 1758 and his will names three daughters, Margaret, Susanna and Elizabeth. It was the youngest daughter, Elizabeth, who married Jost the miller. Although a date for Jost's marriage is listed in The Dreisbach Book, we are unable to substantiate it. What we can say is that the children of Jost and Elizabeth were born between 1750 and 1779, placing their marriage around 1750. These dates allow us to estimate the birthdate of Elizabeth to be between 1732 - 1735, making her at least ten years younger than her husband, Jost. She died in 1811. It must be noted that in 1924 genealogist Laura M. Helman published a book about the Dreisbach history and genealogy in which she made several serious errors. One of these was saying that Jost had married Elizabeth Rachenberger. The error was repeated in "The Dreisbach Book", which is the main source of Dreisbach genealogy information. This is definitely wrong. (For details consult the May 2020 DDFA Newsletter at dreisbach-dreisbach.org.)

The church at Jost's: In Wittgenstein, the German Reformed Church was important to the community and to the Dreisbach Family. After they settled in Lehigh Township, one of the first things Jost and Simon Sr did, in concert with their neighbors, the Dieters, was to build a log church for a small Reformed Congregation on land that lay on the border between that claimed by Jost and that claimed by William Dieter. It was referred to as "the church at Jost's" or "Jost's church". There is no date for when the church started, but the congregation was visited by Rev. Michael Schlatter, a German Reformed minister, in June 1747 when he toured the small Reformed and Lutheran congregations at the edge of the wilderness.³

Jost actively supported this early congregation, donating money to pay for liturgical pewterware. For communion there was a chalice and two plates. For baptism there was a pitcher and a bowl. When the church as Jost's was closed as three congregations united to form Zion Stone Reformed Church, the liturgical pewter ware was donated to the new congregation. All the pieces now are in the possession of Zion Stone UCC, Kreidersville, PA⁴.

Jost, his mill, and the French and Indian War 1755-1763: The French and Indian War (1754-1763) was largely fought on the frontiers of Pennsylvania. The causes of the war were both complex and obvious. Complex where they involve the French and obvious where they involve the Indians. The native people had been displaced by waves of settlers, promises had been made about lines beyond which there would be no more settlements and the promises were broken within months. Fights between both resident Indians and new settlers were common and both felt aggrieved. The Walking Purchase of 1737 took possession of the Lehigh Valley and forced Indians to

settle on territory belonging to the Iroquois. Resentment and need for a place to live and food for families finally resulted in aggression against settlers which was utilized by French forces.

The war reached the Lehigh Valley on 14 December 1755. Attacks by small bands of skilful warriors were frequent and devastating with loss of many lives, burning of houses and barns, and the taking or destruction of crops and supplies. The defence forces were few and difficult to muster. For the people of the northern section of the Lehigh Valley where the Dreisbachs had settled, the only possibility was to flee south to more populous areas where the threat of devastation was less. We find many of the Dreisbachs named in the St. Peter's Tohickon Church records in Perkasio, Bucks County, suggesting at least many of them lived here between 1756 and 1761.

During 1756, '57, and '58, a series of forts were established south of Blue Mountain, in the northern section of the Lehigh Valley. Jost's mill became one of these forts⁵, called Fort Lehigh⁶. The mill must have been a sturdy building with a stone foundation to absorb the strong vibrations created by milling. Having escorted his family to safety in December of 1755, Jost returned to safeguard his mill. Within the month there were seven militia men stationed in the mill⁷. Compared to other buildings, the mill offered good protection. Very soon a stockade of logs surrounded the mill. By 1778 an entire company of men was stationed there. A report of 28 Feb. 1758⁸ says Lieutenant Engle, along with 30 men, were garrisoned at the mill and it was well supplied with 10 lb of powder, 10 lb of lead, 12 rifles, no blankets (it was February), 4 spades, 3 shovels, 2 grubbing hoes and 4 axes⁹. By 1759, most Indian attacks had ceased, people started returning to Lehigh Township. People began to feel safe and guards were removed. Then in 1763 there was a daring raid on Lehigh and Allen Townships. Twenty-three people were killed and Jost's mill was burned¹⁰.

Jost's Revolutionary War activities: Jost had a very active role in the Revolutionary War. The Continental Congress established Committees of Safety which had enormous power to enact laws, control the boycott of British goods, find people who were loyal to Britain, enforce rationing of things that were needed for the war effort and more. It was an important job and Jost was selected to represent Lehigh Township on the Committee of Safety in 1774¹¹. The fact that Jost was chosen indicates he was a man of influence and importance in the community.

War began in April 1775 and militia were organized. On 22 May 1775 Jost was named Captain of the Lehigh Township Company of Associators and Militia¹². Things were moving quickly. On 3 Oct 1775, the Committee of Observation again met in Easton and divided the county into districts to form militia battalions. Jost Dreisbach was elected by the more than 300 men of his battalion to be their Colonel^{13,14}. This, too, tells us something about Jost as a man. That a large number of men chose Jost means that he was well liked, had the ability to command men and was deemed to be fair and honest. It must be emphasized that Col. Jost Dreisbach was a civilian militia officer, not a member of the Continental Army. Col. Jost was never called up to serve in the regular Continental Army. The military officer called Jost/Yost Dreisbach was another man.

Numerous military exploits have been attributed to Jost the miller that actually were the adventures of his nephew who was also named Jost/Yost Dreisbach. It is important to recognize that there were two Jost Dreisbachs who served, in very different ways, during the Revolution. One was the miller Jost, who was a member of the Northampton County Committee of Safety, and who served as Colonel of the Lehigh Township Militia. The other was a man of the next generation, a younger Jost Dreisbach, the son of Jost's brother, Adam. This younger Yost was a military man who served long and well in the Continental Army, was captured at the Battle of Long Island, released, became a Captain in Von Ottendorf's Corps and more. Unfortunately, the histories of the two men have been conflated and the military role of the younger Jost was added to the exploits of the older Jost, the miller. For a detailed discussion of this see the April 2011 DDFA Newsletter available at dreisbach-dreisbach.org.

After the end of the Revolutionary War, it appears Jost was happy to continue as a miller. With one exception, a resurvey of land he'd held since 1766, he did not have any more land dealings. Jost died on 17 October 1794 and was buried in the cemetery of the then new Zion Stone Church in Kreidersville. His will can be found at the Courthouse in Easton, PA or online through Ancestry.com¹⁵.

I.1. JOST DREISBACH'S TRACTS

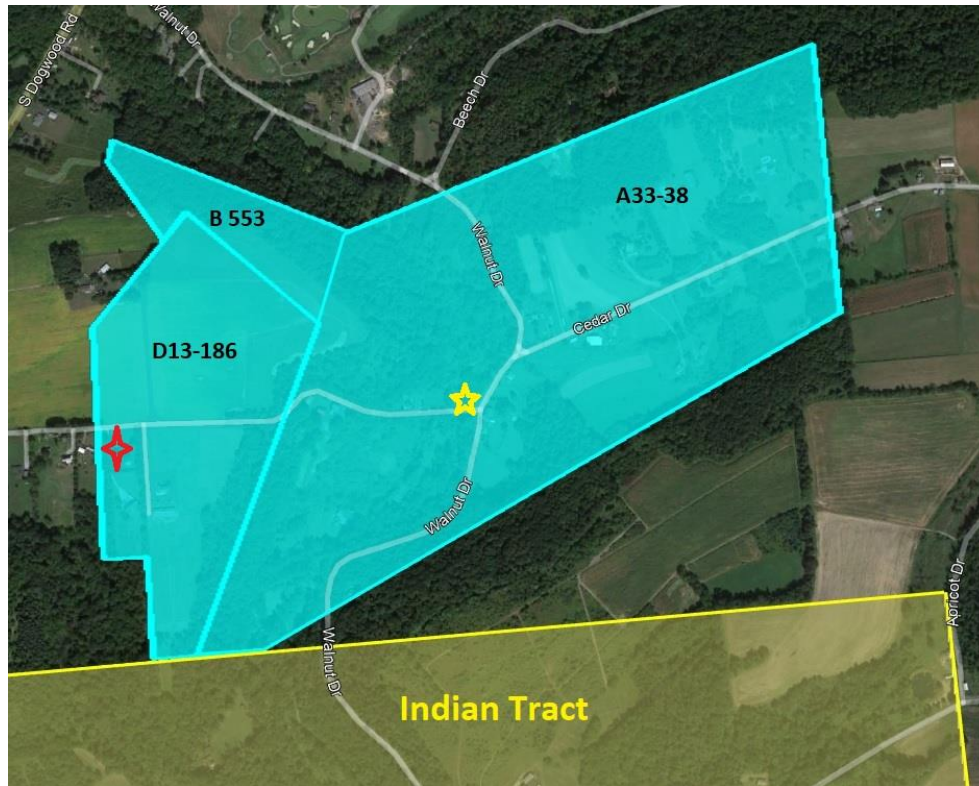


Fig. 3. Jost's first tract had no survey but was within the area of his largest and most important tract, survey A33-38. It contained a fertile valley to the east along Cedar Drive as well as his mill and millpond. His next tract, survey D13-186, was for land he controlled but was now making this control official. The Dreisbach Church at Jost's was in this tract approximately where the red cross is located. His final tract, the small area in survey B 553, also was land he controlled and was formalizing his claim.

I.1.A. 24 June 1747, to "Yost Tricebaugh". Stage I of the future "Yost's Retreat".

Warrant Register, Bucks Co., "T", no. 62. 24 June 1747. 25 acres in the "Forks of the Delaware".

Survey: no survey or survey map known.

Note: This tract, which is now in Northampton Co., is doubtless identical with the southern part of Jost's larger 1765 tract (see I.B. below) as shown on survey map A33-38.

This is the first known record of a Dreisbach applying for a land warrant in North America. No survey was carried out, however, so no survey map exists. Given that it became part of a larger tract for which we do have survey maps, it can be assumed that this tract would have been laid out on both sides of Indian Creek, along which Jost built his mills, and would have had as its southern border the upper edge of the Indian Tract. It may also have comprised part of the little stream that arose to the east and emptied into Indian Creek north of the present stone bridge.

In November 1747, five months after Jost's first warrant, Adam Dreisbach would take out a warrant on land which touched Jost's tract at its south-eastern corner. Simon Sr and an 'unknown' John Dreisbach would follow suit two years later. The Dreisbach family clearly acted in concord and laid claim to a series of adjoining tracts around the north-eastern corner of the Indian Tract. One can assume that the Dreisbachs had already marked out the properties they intended to claim, were settled there and had erected some structures before their trips to Philadelphia in 1747 and 1749 to get warrants on these lands.

I. 1.B. 5 Oct. 1765, to "Jost Reisbach" Called "Buck-Hill" – Stage II of the future "Yost's Retreat" shown in survey A33-38.

Application #1071, 5 Oct. 1765, for 150 acres in Lehigh Township, Northampton Co.

Surveyed on 20 November 176. Shown to contain 162 acres, 52 perches. (Survey map A33-38).

(There is, in addition, a somewhat later survey map, D39-18, which has no accompanying text. Jost's tract is the same in both maps, A33-38 and D39-18, but the neighbors named on the adjoining tracts show that D39-18 was made in about 1771, or even later.)

Jost gave this land the name "Buck-Hill" in 1765.

No 'return' or patent known.

Note: The 25 acres of the original 1747 warrant are surely included among these 160+ acres.

This application has been listed in the Pennsylvania land records under Jost "Reisbach", but on the survey map, the names on Simon's and Adam's adjoining tracts are nevertheless clearly written "Treisbach". What is worse, in the copied, hand-written list of applications in the land records, "Treisbach" has been misread as "Freisbach". This is a considerably larger tract than the 25 acres warranted in 1747, which it doubtless includes. One can read in the text under the 1765 map, "A grist mill on this Tract said to be settled about 6 years". The tract was soon surveyed, on 20 November 1765 (map A33-38), with the name of the tract given as "Buck-Hill". In 1785 Jost would give it a new name, "Jost's Retreat".

The Application records show that Jost was not alone in going to Philadelphia to make an application. Three other men from the area near Blue Mountain are found in the records, listed chronologically on either side of Jost – one Jacob Shewdy (Tchudi) who applied for 100 acres in Lehigh Township (appl. #1069), and two men who were neighbors in Towamensing Township, John Solt and Paul Balliett (appl. s #1065 and #1073). Their applications were registered on Oct. 14 and 15, 1765.

I.1.C. 28 February 1785, to "Jost Treisbach". "Yost's Retreat" shown in survey B 553.

Northampton Co. Warrant Register, "T", no. 79, 28 February 1785, for 410 acres (!) in Lehigh Township

Surveyed on 25 May 1785 and shown to contain only 160 acres and 52 perches. (map B 553).

Returned on 23 September 1785 to "Yost Triesbach".

Patented as "Yost's Retreat" on 26 September 1785 to "Yost Triesback" (patent book P6-309).

This is a new warrant for the 1765 tract, now augmented to include a small strip of vacant land at the northern end of the property. In this warrant, Jost has applied for a survey of a colossal 410 acres! (See Comment 4, below.) The survey, carried out on 25 May 1785, showed that the tract contained far less than that, only 165 acres and 145 perches, which is about the size of the tract as previously surveyed in 1765, plus a few acres for the new upper strip. Patent book P6-309.

Some considerations: What was Jost's original tract like? Of the five Dreisbach tracts warranted between 1747 and 1750, four were for 25 acres and only one was for 50 acres. Such relatively small first tracts were not unusual at the time, and it must be kept in mind that the Dreisbachs had only been in North America for a few years. A fee was needed for each application and money would have been hard to come by. Jost's 25 acres would have been situated on both sides of Indian Creek and would probably have extended southward to the border of the so-called Indian Tract, which was closed to settlement. The exact shape of Jost's first tract is not known.

Why was the original tract not surveyed? The period of Indian attacks on settlers along Blue Mountain began at the end of 1755 and lasted until about 1758. With troops stationed at his mill, called "Fort Lehigh" in the military records¹⁶, and his family staying farther south, in Tohickon, Bucks Co., this period was not a favorable one for having a tract surveyed. Moreover, after the cessation of Indian hostilities, settlements in the area began to increase, and Jost began enlarging his land. By the time the new East Side Application system was put in place, Jost was obviously ready to lay claim to an expanded tract, one which extended northward to adjoin the tract that father Simon or younger brother Simon Jr had already warranted in 1755, just before the Indian attacks began.

Where were Jost's house and mills? The dwelling-house was doubtless separate from the mill, or mills. According to local tradition the mills and millrace were on the narrow strip of land between Indian Creek and the sharply rising hill west of the creek. Jost's house may have been built near the grist mill. Or it could have been built on the other side of Indian Creek, across what is now Walnut Drive, in a little dale where there were (and still are) several springs, and where there was a farm known to have been occupied by descendants of Jost in the early 1800's. The present roads that make a "T" at the bridge (Walnut Drive and Cedar Drive) must have been there in some primitive form, for without roads, farmers with grain could not reach the mill. In the beginning there was only a fording-place at Indian Creek, located a little north of the present stone bridge, but soon a narrow wooden bridge would be constructed and then replaced with a sturdy stone bridge in 1826, capable of carrying a horse laden with sacks of grain going to the mill, or flour after it had been ground. Early maps indicate the east-west road, Cedar Drive, was the original King's Highway. After the founding of Easton in 1752 it went all the way from Easton to the Lehigh Water Gap.

What were Jost's intentions when on 28 Feb. 1785 he applied for a new survey trying to claim a colossal 410 acres? We know from the land records that Jost was surrounded by the lands of members of his family. The only direction in which he could expand was to the south, inside the large so-called Indian Tract, which was technically not yet open to settlement. However, many parts of this huge tract were already inhabited, and in late 1789 the tract was surveyed by George Palmer in preparation for purchase. Jost must have foreseen something of the sort as early as 1785, and it appears that he tried to stake out an extra 250 acres or so in the Indian Tract, clearly without success. On 23 September 1785 he obtained no more than the land he had patented previously, but now a little expanded to the northwest, making a total of no more than 165 acres and 140 perches. Jost, who died in 1794, would not live to see the Indian Tract fully opened for purchase.

I.2. JOST DREISBACH'S SECOND TRACT. 22 October 1766, to "Jost Triesbach". "Trinidad" shown in survey D13-186.

Application #1995, of 22 October 1766, for 100 acres in Lehigh Township

Surveyed in 1771 (day and month not given) and shown to contain 41 acres. Survey map D13-186.

Returned on 25 May 1782, according to the East Side Applications text. (The date was perhaps confused with that of the patent, given as 21 May 1783. The patent date should not precede the return date, as it is the return that makes obtaining the patent possible).

Patent P1-260 awarded on 21 May 1782 to "Jost Triesback", 41 acres. Name of tract: "Trinidad".

This land, situated along the western border of Jost's earlier tract (see his application #1071 of the previous year), is in effect an expansion of his property. Technically, it also closes the unoccupied gap between Jost's original land and that of his brother-in-law Henry Ulrich. However, it seems likely that Jost had been unofficially occupying this land for decades. Indeed, in the late 1740's Jost erected the log church of the Reformed congregation on this unclaimed territory. The location of the church, pointed out by local historians, was on the border separating Jost's second tract from the land Henry Ulrich would warrant in 1759. Jost took out his application for this land 6½ years after Henry Ulrich got his warrant, but it is not impossible that Jost already had plans for this area and that he discouraged his brother-in-law from including it in the land he eventually warranted. Moreover, it is interesting that Jost waited until 1771 to have this land surveyed. 1771 was the year when the decision was taken to construct a new church farther south, on the Lehigh-Allen Township border. This meant that services would cease at "Jost Dreisbach's church", and that burials would henceforth take place in the new Zion Stone Church burial ground. Perhaps Jost now felt free to have this land surveyed for his own use. He took his time, however, and did not take out a patent on the land until 1782. At that time the name of the tract was registered as "Trinidad".

Jost first introduced an Application for this land in October 1766, perhaps to secure the land for the use of the church. Jost and six other men from this area travelled to Philadelphia in the fall of 1766, doubtless together, for they certainly knew each other. They were: three Dreisbachs (Jost, Adam, John), two Bichleys (John, Henry) and two Marshes (Adam, Valentine). And they all took out applications on the very same day, October 22nd, for tracts in Lehigh and Moore Townships.

Jost and his two tracts – a summing up. In the Colonial period, the Dreisbach lands on the northern edge of the Indian Tract formed a tight little mosaic of tracts. Here, Jost's two mills, and the Dreisbach Church near them, formed a small commercial and religious center at an early cross-roads and fording place. Jost's gristmill even had a certain military importance, serving as part of a chain of forts along Blue Mountain during the Indian troubles of the 1750's. In the military records it is listed under the name, "Fort Lehigh"¹⁷. Twenty years later, in the Revolutionary War, Jost was awarded the rank of Colonel, commanding more than 400 men. He remained in Northampton County throughout the war. His service is often conflated with the service by another Jost Dreisbach, a much younger man who was the son of Adam (Jost's brother). This younger Jost/Yost was a military man, served in the Pennsylvania Line (as opposed to the Northampton County militia), was taken prisoner, released, served with Von Ottendorf's line along with other military exploits. (See the 2011 DDFA newsletter, "*The Dreisbachs' Two Josts in the Revolutionary War*").

Jost participated in an extensive family network that spread into neighboring counties. His milling activities gave him a significance among his neighbors, and within the 'Dreisbach' church he was the leading layman in his congregation. Jost Dreisbach was content to remain on the land he had assembled bit by bit from 1747 to 1785, and to which, at age 64, he gave the name "Jost's Retreat".

- **Where the lands of Jost Dreisbach can be found today.** The 'heart' of Jost's tracts is the stone arched bridge of 1819 at the crossroads in Howersville. The bridge carries Cedar Drive across Indian Creek and was originally part of the King's Highway, the main east-west artery between Easton and the Lehigh Gap. The north-south road which follows along Indian Creek is Walnut Drive, an early road leading from Kreidersville and Zion Stone Church up to Little Gap in the Blue Mountain. No remains of Jost's grist and sawmills are to be seen. They stood on the western side of Indian Creek, between the creek and the wooded hill. The site of Jost's mill pond can be seen as a marshy area north of the intersection of Cedar and Walnut Drives. Stone piles at the beginning of the marshy area are the remains of the dam that created the mill pond. The site of Jost's church and its cemetery was along Cedar Drive, at the top of the hill when going west, on the southern side, where there are now woods bordering a cultivated field. Nothing can be seen of it, or the abandoned cemetery today.

¹ See Volume 2, Numbers 13 and 14 of the DERR, at dreisbach-dresbach.org.

² Penna. Arch. Series 1, Vol. II, p. 546.

³ Glatfelter, C. H. *Pastors and People: German Lutheran and Reformed Church in the Pennsylvania Field*, p. 160.

⁴ *Pewter from the Church at Jost's*, ca. 1747 to 1771, Herr, D. M. *Pewter in Pennsylvania German Churches*, pub. by The Pennsylvania German Society, Birdsboro, PA, Vol. XXIX, 1995, p. 17.

⁵ Penna. Arch. Ser. 1, Vol III, p. 341.

⁶ Hunter, W. A., *Forts on the Pennsylvania Frontier, 1753-1758*. Pub. By Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, PA. 1960. P.288.

⁷ Penna. Arch. Ser. 1, Vol. II, pp 546-547.

⁸ Penna. Arch. Ser. 1, Vol. III, pp 355-356.

⁹ *Ibid.* pp. 283-289.

¹⁰ Report of the Commission to Locate the Site of the Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania. Vol. 1, Thomas Lynch Montgomery, 1916, Indian Outbreak of 1763. Pp 164-174.

¹¹ Penna. Arch. Ser. 2, Vol XIV, p. 591.

¹² Penna. Arch. Ser. 2, Vol XIV, p. 553.

¹³ Penna. Arch. Ser. 2, Vol III, p. 579.

¹⁴ Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Revolutionary War Militia Overview, <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Revolutionary-War.aspx>

¹⁵ Pennsylvania, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, Northampton, Bucks County, Will Book, Vol. 1-3, 1752-1800, p. 283.

¹⁶ Penna Arch. Ser. 1, Vol. III. p. 341.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* p. 340.

II. ADAM DREISBACH - Born in Oberndorf, Wittgenstein. Baptized 7 November 1722 in Feudinggen, in what is now Nord-Rhein Westfalen, Germany. Died in Easton, Northampton County, PA, 10 January 1803. Buried in German Reformed Cemetery, Easton, PA. Married Susanna Coerber (b.1724, d.1805).

Adam was almost 22 when the family arrived in Pennsylvania on September 19th in 1743. We know Adam was both a farmer and a saddler who worked with leather. We believe that just after the family arrived he, and Simon Jr, worked at the Reeser Tannery in Germantown where they learned the leather trade. We do not know if Adam was a hired worker at the tannery, or if he had a three year indenture. What we do know is that by 1747 Adam, and other Dreisbachs, left Germantown to explore and then warrant land.

Adam was the second Dreisbachs to take out a warrant for land in what is now Lehigh Township, doing so five months after his older brother, Jost. On 3 November 1747 he applied for a warrant for a tract of 25 acres which lay near that of Jost. The interval may reflect the time it took to build a house and barn first for Jost and then for Adam before applying for a warrant. One year and six months later, on 16th of July 1749 Adam was far from Lehigh township. He was in the town of Lancaster, PA getting married to Susanna Coerber (b.7 April 1724) at Trinity Lutheran Church. We have no idea how, where or when he met Susanna. We also do not know if Adam stayed in the Lancaster area after he married or if he brought his new bride back to Lehigh Township. We found no record of Adam for nine years until he and his wife were sponsors at the baptism of the son of friends in 1758¹ and a year later were sponsors for Adam's nephew, John, the son of John Dreisbach and Elizabeth Waltman Dreisbach². Both baptisms took place at the Tohickon Church in Bucks County in 1759.

After the Indian attacks in December of 1755, we believe all the Dreisbach families living in Lehigh Township fled south to the much safer area of Perkasio, in Bucks County PA. Why they chose this destination is a mystery but there must have been a reason. We don't know if Adam and Susanna were living in the relatively safety of Lancaster or if they also had moved to Bucks County to join the Dreisbach families there. However, it appears they, or at least Adam, returned to Lehigh Township in 1759 since Adam made an inventory of the goods of Jost Dreisbach's late neighbor, John William Dieter, in 1759³.

Unlike his older brother, Adam was not active in the Revolutionary War. After 1777, all white males between 18 and 55 years of age were required to serve in the militia. Adam was exactly 55 and almost certainly did not do militia service. There is no indication that he was a Loyalist, but he may have been risk averse, especially in the early days when victory of the English forces looked probable. While the Pennsylvania Archives lists of men in the Lehigh Township militia include "Adam Dreisbach", the lists refer to the next generation of young men who also were named "Adam". Each of the Dreisbach brothers, Jost, Adam, Simon Jr, George and John had a son named Adam at least some of whom served in the Lehigh Township militia.

In 1765 Adam's father-in-law, Andreas Coerber (1698-1765) was living with Adam and Susanna, probably as a widower. At this point Adam had warranted only his first little tract, but he was certainly occupying more territory which was soon to become officially warranted. Andreas died in 1765 and was buried in the old cemetery at Jost Dreisbach's church. This church was decommissioned when the new Zion Stone Church was built and the cemetery was abandoned. Years later the tombstones were moved to the side and the cemetery was turned into a field. In the 1920's some tombstones were rescued and inserted in a special monument at Zion Stone Church, Kreidersville. Andreas' tombstone is found there.

On a 1766 on a list of taxable inhabitants of Lehigh Township⁴, Adam is one of the four Dreisbachs listed: Jost has 6 acres cleared and 100 acres of woodland, Simon Jr has 12 acres cleared and 238 acres woodland, Adam has the largest number of acres cleared, 43 acres, along with 200 acres of woodland, while "a" John Dreisbach, inside the Indian Tract has 21 acres cleared. Adam clearly had acquired land adjoining his original 1749 claim probably including the tract previously warranted and occupied by 'unknown' John Dreisbach. By the 1770's Adam had many acres of land under cultivation. At this same time his neighbor, Adam Hamshire, was a distiller and the triumvirate of Adam growing grain, Jost milling the grain and Hamshire turning it into whiskey was no doubt a profitable association.

Adam did not stay on his land until he died. In 1782 Adam, who was nearing sixty, moved to Easton, the County Seat. Here he bought city lot #76 which had been warranted to John Lefevre, tavern keeper, in 1752⁵. It was then purchased by Adam Yohe and a patent was issued to him on 13 June 1775. He sold the lot and the messuage (house) upon it to Henry Fullert. When Fullert died the administrator of his estate, Abraham Berlin, sold the lot and its buildings to Adam. The date of sale was 15 November 1782.⁶ Interestingly, Abraham Berlin was the chair of the Committee of Observation on which Adam's brother, Jost, held a seat. The 1798 United States Direct House Tax describes Adam's house as built of logs, measuring 20 x 26 feet and having 2 storeys.

Adam's next-door neighbor in Easton was Robert Trail. One of the first settlers in Easton, he was very active in Revolutionary politics, was a member of the Committee of Observation and highly esteemed. One can imagine Adam learned of the lot and house that were for sale in Easton through his brother's association with Abraham Berlin and Robert Trail.

The tax lists for Easton, Northampton Co. in 1785 and 1786⁷ give us a glimpse of Adam's life. By then Adam was living in Easton with no acreage, no horse, and no sheep, but with one cow. He was taxed at a relatively low one shilling. In the 1786 Federal tax list for Easton Adam is listed as a saddler, suggesting he was running a saddle shop. He had one house, 3 lots and paid 11 shillings, 10 pence in tax.

Adam's entire nuclear family lived in Easton - his son Adam Jr and three married daughters (Magdalena, wife of the Easton baker Nicholas Troxell, Anna Maria, who married the well-to-do inn keeper, Lorentz Erb, and Elizabeth, who married Fredrick Berthold, High Constable in Easton). Adam did not live to see his granddaughter, Mary Erb, become First Lady of Pennsylvania as wife of Governor George Wolf.

Adam died on 10 January 1803. Unlike the wills of Jost and Simon Jr, Adam's will⁸ consists of only one paragraph in which he says "...since I name nothing, nothing is named" which means he is not going to enumerate all his belonging and holdings but leaves them all to his wife. The result of this was that the bulk of Adam's properties were sold the year after he died. His wife, Susanna, died on 7 April 1805. Adam and his wife were buried in the cemetery of the German Reformed Church of Easton. When the Easton Public Library was constructed in 1903, both the building itself and the road that serves it, were built over the cemetery. A number of graves were moved but others were just covered over. A map of the cemetery of The German Reformed Church before it was disturbed hangs in the Marx Room of the Easton Public Library. From this we can see that Adam and Susannah's graves lie underneath the road in front of the current Easton Public Library.

II.1.A. 3 November 1747, to "Adam Tricebaugh". The tract with 'the chimney'.

Bucks Co. Warrant Register, "T", no. 64. 25 acres at "Indian Creek", Bucks Co. (now Lehigh Township, Northampton Co.)

No known survey or survey map has been preserved.

It is assumed that this tract is more or less identical with the tract which was "resurveyed" in 1782, and which is shown on survey map D13-189. Adam's original tract had an estimated size of only 25 acres, whereas the size of the tract when surveyed 35 years later was larger by 9 acres. This need not indicate that the tract underwent any major changes. The "chimney" that is seen on map D13-189 may have been part of the tract from the beginning or may have been added to connect with a corner of Jost's tract after it was enlarged. Of significance for the pattern of the early Dreisbach lands is the way they hug the border of the Indian Tract. Map D13-189 shows that Adam laid out his land to extend exactly to the north-eastern corner of the Indian Tract. From this small start, Adam would acquire further tracts and extend his holdings to the east and north-east.

II.2.A. 22 October 1766, to "Adam Treisbach", who thus enlarges his holdings.

Application # 1991 for 100 acres. "To adjoin his other land and Christian Rubner (Ruffner) in Lehigh Township Northampton County".

Surveyed 6 March 1820 to Adam Treisbach. Now shown to contain 117¼ acres

Survey map D13-70.

Returned 17 February 1823 to P. Master and George Wentz

Patented on 17 February 1823 to Peter Master et al. Patent index H20-503.

On 22 October 1766, Adam was only one of a party of men from the area in Northampton County near Blue Mountain who, on one and the same day, appeared at the Land Office in Philadelphia to make their applications for land which they had doubtless already staked out. An application was the first step leading to a survey and eventually to full title to the land. His brother Jost was one of the group (application #1995) along with various neighbors. Adam also made a second application on this date, #1992, for a sizeable tract farther east, in Moore Township, as we shall see in sections II.3.A. and B.

The land records leave a gap in the history of this tract. A look at the 1782 survey map of Adam's original 'chimney' tract shows that by then the larger neighboring piece of land we are considering is no longer in Adam Dreisbach's hands. He was moving to Easton at this time and no doubt the surveyor knew that the land had changed hands or was about to change hands. Perhaps deeds or other documents can tell us about the intervening forty years or so until the tract officially changed hands in 1823. Until then it may have stayed among Adam's heirs.

II.2. B. 21 January 1771, to "Adam Triesbach", The large tract gets a little addition.

Warrant "T" 35, Northampton Co. warrant register, of 21 January 1771 for 12 acres in Lehigh Township.

Surveyed 26 November 1771. Shown to contain 13 acres, 10 perches.

Survey map C215-281.

Returned 17 February 1823 to George Wentz et al.

Patented on 17 February 1823 to George Wentz and Peter Master. Patent index H20-507.

In 1771 (map C215-281) this little rectangle seemed to perch atop the straight upper edge of Adam's 1766 tract, and it is shown with vacant land on two of its sides. By the time of the 1820 survey (map D13-70 discussed above), the upper edge of the 1766 tract has moved up, thereby forming an empty corner into which this little rectangular tract snugly fits. Although patented on the same day to the same persons as the larger 1776 tract, this little tract has a separate patent, no. H20-507.

Thus, Adam Dreisbach extended his holdings to the north-east by getting a 1766 application for a larger tract and then adding a small strip in 1771. Like Jost, he now had two contiguous tracts, and Adam's acquisitions were adding to the constantly growing mosaic of Dreisbach lands at the north-eastern corner of the Indian Tract. Unlike Jost, however, Adam put in an application for a fairly distant, additional large tract (150 acres) situated three tracts east of father Simon's Moore Township tract, as follows.

II.3.A. 22 October 1766, to "Adam Feisback". The large Moore Township tract.

Application "1992" of 22 October 1766 for 150 acres.

"Adjoining George Cole in Moore Township Northampton County".

No survey or survey map known.

Though we have no survey map to consult, this tract is surely the same as that discussed below, for which Adam finally obtained a warrant twenty years later. By the early 1760's this area was beginning to attract persons prepared to take tracts at the very northern limit of tillable land, where the great slope of Blue Mountain begins to rise. The land here is fertile, according to the local farmers, at least until the mountain takes over. However, one wonders if this was seen as an investment for lumbering purposes or with the futures of his many children in mind. In fact, Adam is already listed as an adjoining 'neighbor' when George Cole/Kohl made his application on 19 February 1766, ten months before Adam's application, implying that Adam had staked out his southward sloping 150 acres well before making an application. Already in 1766 Adam had over 250 Acres of land.

There are many years between these land transactions and the next ones. Adam seems to have been content with the 250 acres of land he amassed of which 70 acres were under cultivation. Considering that all these fields were worked with a horse (or cattle) drawn plough, and all harvested by hand, this is a large area of cultivated land. About 1780 Adam must have been considering retirement. He was approaching 60 years of age and farming was hard work. He sold 34 acres of land to his neighbor, Adam Hamscher. However, he did not sell off the major portion of his land.

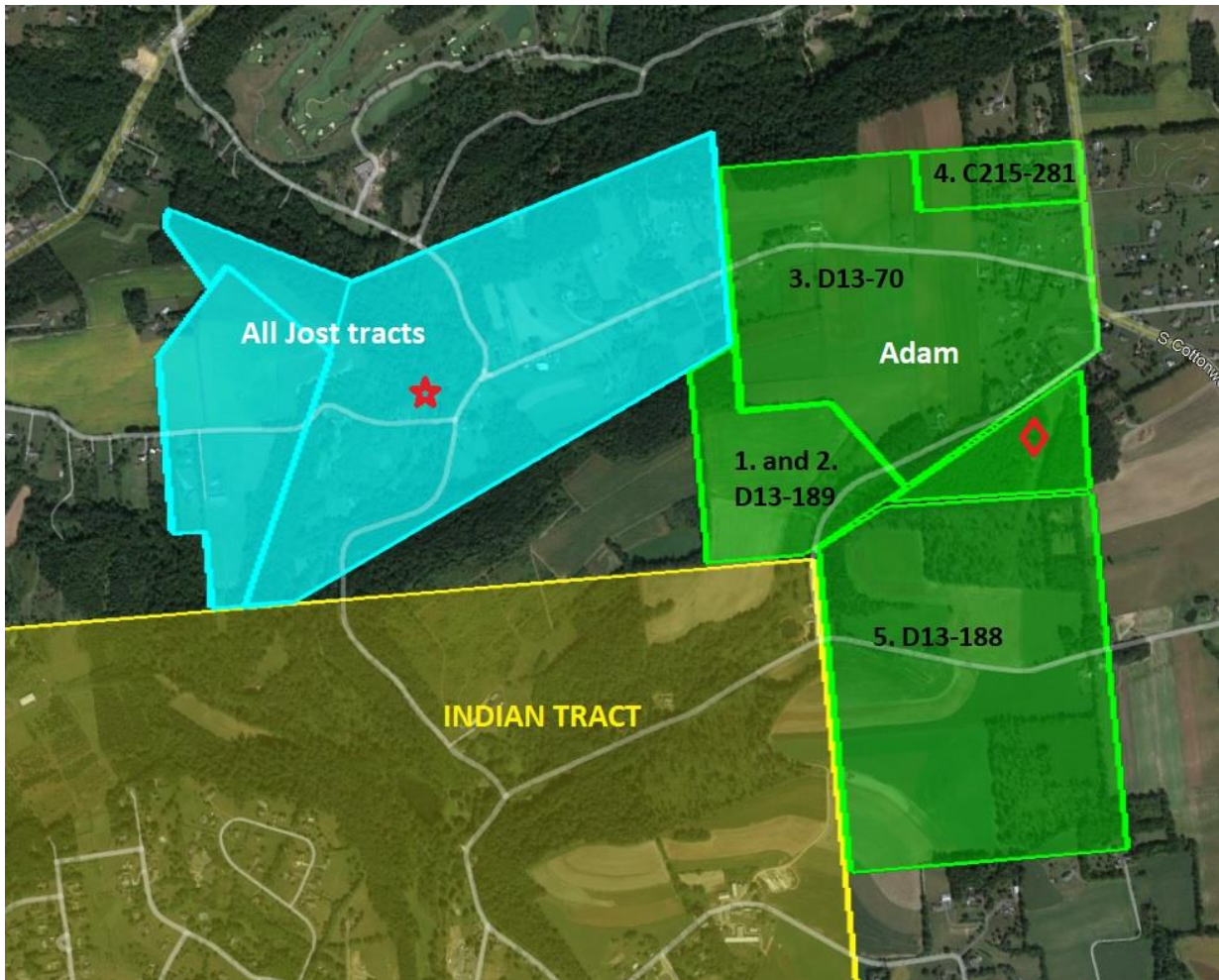


Fig. 4. Adam's tracts: 1. His first tract was not surveyed but was located here. 2. Survey D13-189, done years later, shows his first tract plus a small addition. 3. Large tract D13-70 was added in 1766. 4. Small rectangle was added in 1771. 5. This tract was warranted by an unknown John Dreisbach (see next chapter). No records show Adam purchased this tract but survey D13-188 indicates it belonged to Adam as did the little triangle to the north (with the red diamond). These inter-family transactions were not officially recorded. The small tract with a red diamond was part of the 1749 warrant by Simon Dreisbach Sr. Adam also had a large investment property (Survey Y-149) on the side of Blue mountain which can be seen in Fig. 8 as the green rectangle in the upper right corner. For orientation purposes, all of Jost's lands are shown in blue. Red star is the approximate location of Jost's grist mill.

II.3.B. 23 August 1786, to "Adam Dreisback". The Moore tract re-warranted prior to sale.

New warrant of 23 August 1786, Moore Township

Survey of 10 July 1787. Shown to contain 149 acres, 56 perches.

Survey map Y149.

Returned 19 July 1790 to Philip Fister.

Patent no. P16-345 of 16 July 1790 to Philip Fister.

By 1782 Adam had left Lehigh Township and was living in Easton. He was probably intending to divest himself of this tract in upper Moore Township, and therefore had to start the warrant and survey process over again. As we have seen, Adam had already made over one of his Lehigh Township tracts to Adam Hamscher in 1782, and

Adam Dreisbach was shown on that survey map (D13-189) as no longer having any form of title to the tract adjoining it. As for this 'hinterland' tract, Adam retained it a few years longer, but as the 1786 Federal tax list for Moore Township shows, there was clearly no farming activity, as Adam has neither horses nor cattle here. If the land was worked at all, it was probably a question of lumbering. Now, in 1790, with this sale to one Philip Fister, Adam seems to have relinquished all lands except for his Easton lot.

II.4.A. 24 June 1782. "Adam Treisbach".

Resurvey on 24 June 1782 of original tract, now containing 34 acres and 20 perches.

Survey map D13-189.

Returned on 31 July 1782 to Adam Hamscher.

Patented to Adam Hamscher on 31 July 1782, patent P1-209. Name: "New Hampshire".

Under this same patent, P1-309, Hamscher also acquired the neighboring tract of John Dreisbach (discussed below).

This resurvey of Adam's original tract. **II.1.A**, warranted 35 years earlier, seems to have been carried out in order to make possible the sale or transfer of the land, which took place about a month later. This occurred at the same time as the transfer of John Dreisbach's neighboring tract to Adam Hamshire, the father-in-law of young Adam Dreisbach (1762-1849), son of Jost Dreisbach. Thus, Adam Hamshire acquired, in addition to Adam Dreisbach's land, which he called "New Hampshire", John Dreisbach's land, which was given the name "Old Hamshire". The two tracts were combined into only one patent (P1-309).

Adam's tract as surveyed in 1782 has, remarkably, preserved most of its original outlines through the centuries. A look at this part of Northampton County on Google Earth shows a piece of land immediately identifiable as the tract of land appearing on the 1782 survey map – it is reminiscent of a little house, 'chimney' and all! It is fully cultivated, but has no structures on it, nor can any signs of earlier structures be seen in the satellite photograph. It is probable that Adam was living in the little valley along Cedar Drive where he had access to plentiful spring water.

In 1782, when Adam Dreisbach's tract changed hands, he was, or would soon be, living in Easton. A purchaser for this part of Adam's Lehigh Township land had emerged in the form of Adam Hamshire or Hamscher/Hamsher (1736-1809), a 1753 immigrant, who was connected to the Dreisbachs through marriage.

His daughter, Maria Margareta Hamshire, had already married Adam Dreisbach, son of Jost Dreisbach, before the purchase was finalized.

II.5.A Adam moves to the County Seat, Easton about 1782-1783.

No known bill of sale. Adam purchased Town Lot Number 76, on the corner of the present Northampton Street and a small alley called N. Sitgreaves Street. It was a fairly deep lot and an early map shows a small structure at the end of the lot⁹. This may have been used as a saddlery or a leather shop.

List of other transactions: Adam does not seem to have sold off the majority of his land holdings before he died. They seem to have been sold by his estate within months of his death. Below is a chart showing transactions of Adam Dreisbach. The first three were done before his death 10 January 1803. The remaining transactions presumably were done by this executor or the estate.

Grantor	Grantee	Recorded	Date of Deed	Date Recorded	Location
Adam Sr wf	Adam Dreisbach Jr	E1 243	16 Feb 1786	24 Mar 1786	Easton
Adam	William Lane	E1 636	7 May 1790	21 Jan 1791	-----
Adam wf	Philip J Schreiber	G2 342	22 June 1801	30 June 1802	Lehigh Twp
Adam wf	Peter Ealer	H2 298	16 April 1803	28 Sept 1803	Lehigh Twp
Adam wf	Philip Newhart	G4 326	5 May 1803	21 Jan 1923	Lehigh Twp
Adam wf	Frederick Bachman	H2 312	11 June 1803	18 Oct 1803	Lehigh Twp
Adam wf	George Haas	E5 367	18 June 1803	16 May 1829	Lehigh Twp
Adam wf	George Wal(s)h	F4 451	3 Sept 1803	22 Jan 1822	Lehigh Twp

Adam wf	David Beary	C3 105	24 Sept 1803	21 April 1807	Lehigh Twp
Adam wf	Henry Smith	C3 364	26 Nov 1803	08 Dec 1807	Lehigh Twp
Adam wf	Michael Frock	D3 410	2 Jan 1804	5 Feb 1810	Lehigh Twp
Adam	Adam Sorver et al	F5 486	14 Feb 1804	11 Feb 1833	Lehigh Twp
Adam wf	David Beary	C3 99	24 Oct 1804	20 April 1807	Lehigh Twp
Adam wf	John Reyer	A3 133	15 Dec 1804	20 Mar 1805	Lehigh Twp
Adam wf	Dewalt Young	D3 377	16 Dec 1804	29 Dec 1809	Lehigh Twp
Adam wf	Margaret Grover	D3 376	22 Feb 1805	29 Nov 1809	Lehigh Twp

Where the lands of Adam Dreisbach can be found today.

- One can drive along the south-eastern edge of the "little house" tract (II.1.B.), which corresponds in general to the curve on Apricot Drive. This is a short road in Lehigh Township that connects Murphy Rd. on the south with the junction of Cottonwood Rd. and Cedar Drive to the north-east.
- After leaving Apricot Drive and turning north on Cottonwood Rd., one should then be in Adam's larger tract (II.2.A. & B.).
- One can drive across the middle of Adam's Moore Township tract (II.3.A.) by taking Rte. 946 to Youngsville (near Littlemore Church) and turning off in a north-east direction on Scenic Drive. Follow this road to the third left turn-off, which should be Bigley Rd. Very soon Bigley Rd. becomes the western boundary of what was once Adam's land. Arriving at Delp's Rd., turn right. You will now be driving through the middle of Adam's tract.
- As for saddler Adam's lot in Easton, Adam's House in Easton on Northampton Street was on Town Lot No. 76. It is on the corner of the present Northampton Street and a small alley called North Sitgreaves Street.

¹ Hinke, W. J. *A History of the Tohickon Union Church Bedminster Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania*, Pub. by The Pennsylvania German Society, Meadville, PA. 1925. p. 91.

² Ibid. p. 103.

³ Register of Wills, Northampton Co. Courthouse, Easton, PA. Will number 173, John Deter. George and Adam 'Trashpack' made inventory of estate of John Dieter, 1759.

⁴ Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Northampton County Papers, 1766 Lehigh Township tax list.

⁵ Chidsey, A.D. Jr., *A Frontier Village, Pre-Revolutionary Easton*, Vol. III in the publications of The Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society, Easton, Pennsylvania. 1940. pp 257-258.

⁶ Ibid. p. 257.

⁷ Ancestry, image 27 of 54, Ancestry.com. *Pennsylvania, U.S., Tax and Exoneration, 1768-1801* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA. Original data: Tax & Exoneration Lists, 1762–1794. Series No. 4.61; Records of the Office of the Comptroller General, RG-4. Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

⁸ Will Book 4, 1800-1814, p. 120. Accessed at the Register of Wills, Northampton County Court House, Easton, PA.

⁹ Chidsey, Op. Cit. p. 262.

III. An “UNKNOWN” JOHN DREISBACH - Date and place of birth unknown but presumably born in Wittgenstein. Died ca. 1787 in Lehigh Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania.

The first indication of an ‘unknown’ John is in the warrant books for Bucks County. On the same day that Simon "Tricebough" Senior took out his first warrant, on 25 May 1749, a John "Tricebough" did likewise. Indeed, he slightly preceded Simon, as he is number 74 under "T" in the Bucks County Warrant Register, and Simon Sr is number 80, and though they appear next to each other on the page of warrantees, it is John who comes before Simon. We do not know if this was significant or if it is simply a matter of how the warrants were recorded. Who was this “John Tricebough” who warranted 25 acres of land right next to Simon Sr and Adam? Clearly, he was a relative of some kind.

Could this John Dreisbach have been John, the youngest son of Simon Sr? The answer is a clear no.

We first thought that the applicant was John, Simon Sr’s youngest son, but that cannot be. A man had to be 21 years or older to warrant land. The youngest son of Simon Sr would have been barely 14 years old at the time the warrant was sought. What if Simon Sr went alone to the Land Office and lied about the age of his son who was applying for a warrant? We know a person did not have to present himself at the Land Office to apply. There are strong arguments against this:

- 1) A warrant obtained under false pretences would be invalid and the land could be warranted by the person who brought this to the attention of the Land Office. Many people, including neighbors who would know the age of Simon Sr’s youngest son might want this land. They would know that land claim was illegal and they could warrant and own it.
- 2) There was no reason for Simon Sr to warrant 25 acres in the name of his youngest son. He never warranted land in the name of his other sons.
- 3) The obvious thing to do was for Simon Sr to warrant the two adjacent tracts as a single tract in his own name. That Simon Sr did not do so, strongly suggests the presence of another “John Dreisbach”. Who might this ‘unknown’ John Dreisbach be?

‘Unknown’ John’s relationship to Simon Sr: To act so closely with Simon Sr, and to take out a warrant on land so near the other Dreisbach tracts, ‘unknown’ John must have been a family member. We know he was not one of Simon Sr’s two documented brothers. Wittgenstein church records confirm that both his brothers, Gurg and Johan Herman, lived and died in Oberndorf¹, so ‘unknown’ John must have been a cousin of some degree. We do not know his age, but he warranted with Simon Sr and not with Simon’s sons, suggesting he was closer in age to Simon Sr. We have not found a record of his arrival in Pennsylvania.

Can ‘unknown’ John be located among Dreisbachs in Wittgenstein records? A search of the Wittgenstein records (with the help of Wittgenstein genealogists and historians Jochen Karl Mehldau, Heinrich Imhof and Andreas Sassmanshausen) turned up a plausible person: Johannes Dreisbach, who was baptized in Aue, Wittgenstein on 25 March 1703, and who married Elisabeth Gertrud Dörr of Wemlighausen, Wittgenstein. They had a child who was born and died the same year, 1739. It is possible that after this event, Johannes went to Pennsylvania. His wife stayed home and died in Balde, Wittgenstein at the age of 59. When she died, she was not listed in the church records as a widow, indicating her husband was still alive. Far from proof, but a possibility.

Possible connection to other Dreisbach families already in Pennsylvania: Alternatively, ‘unknown’ John may be related to other, also unknown, Dreisbachs who are recorded as living in Bucks County, Pennsylvania in the 1750’s. Their names are found in the Tohickon Church books and in Saucon Township records, but we know nothing about them other than that they use a familiar set of first names: Simon, George and John, suggesting a relationship back in Wittgenstein. If ‘unknown’ John was related to these Bucks County Dreisbachs, it could explain why the Simon Dreisbach Sr families fled to this area to seek refuge during the French and Indian war of 1755-1763.

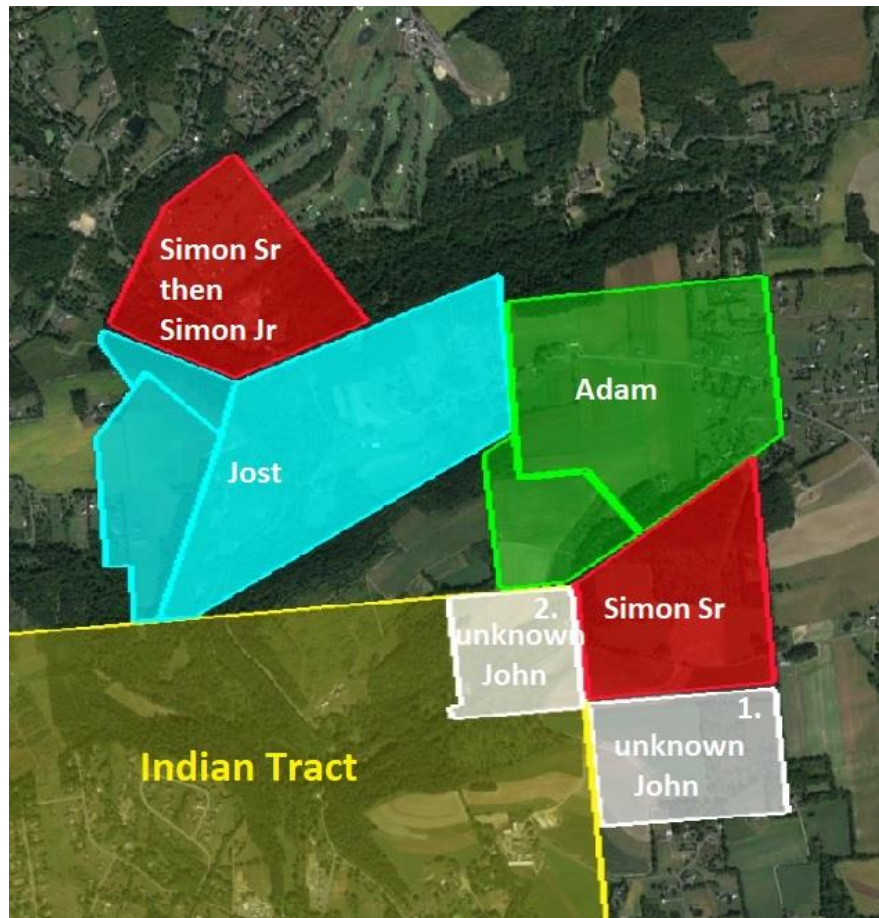


Fig. 5. In white are the two tracts associated with 'Unknown John'. 1. Tract of 1749 which was warranted at the same time as Simon Sr's tract, directly above, shown in red. This is the only tract that was definitely owned by 'Unknown John'. 2. Based on tax lists and lists of subsequent owners, it appears 'Unknown John' subsequently sold his first tract to Adam and moved into the Indian Tract but there are no documents to show this.

III.1. 25 May 1749, to John Tricebaugh. Completing the Dreisbach 'corner'.

Bucks Co. Warrant Register "T" 74. 25 May 1749 (the same date as Simon Sr's first warrant). 25 acres. In "MooreLehigh". Situated along the eastern edge of the Indian Tract, next to Adam Dreisbach's land. A survey was made but cannot be found. The tract is shown on a much later survey, D13-188. Returned on 24 July 1782 to Adam Hamshire, containing 124 acres, 114 perches. Patent P1-309 of 31 July 1782. This patent comprises John's tract as well as the neighboring one of Adam Dreisbach. These tracts, now belonging to Adam Hamshire, were renamed "Old Hampshire" (John's former tract) and "New Hampshire" (Adam's former tract).

What began as a small tract estimated at 25 acres when warranted, had expanded to five times its size (124+ acres) when it changed hands in 1782. There seems to have been a clear intent on the part of the Dreisbachs (Jost, Adam and Simon Sr) to warrant, and control, as much land as possible along the north-eastern edge of the Indian Tract, with the clear aim of squatting on and then legally obtaining land inside the Indian Tract as soon as the Penn Proprietors opened this land for purchase. This purchase would have been part of this greater plan.

The original survey for this warrant application has not been found although a rough survey map, that was made from the field notes of the surveyor and which was sent to the Land Office, is at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. This map was amended and subsequently released as map D13-188. There is a small but important (for us) discrepancy between the two versions of the same survey. The rough survey that was sent to the Land Office shows that Simon Dreisbach Sr once owned land adjacent to the northeast corner of John's tract. It is the *only* document that shows where Simon's 1749 tract was located! On this rough map, Simon's name is crossed out and replaced by "Adam Treisbach". On the D13-188 survey, any indication that Simon once owned land adjacent to 'unknown' John has disappeared.

Another land transaction for 'unknown' John Dreisbach (Triesbach):

Two men named 'John Dreisbach': An application was made on 22 October 1766 by a 'John Triesbach'. What is the evidence that this was made by 'unknown' John and not by John, the youngest son of Simon Sr?

The original transaction of 1749 firmly established 'unknown' John Dreisbach as owning property and therefore he is on the tax lists. The first known Lehigh Township tax list is from 1761. Earlier tax lists from 1754 and perhaps 1755 apparently did not survive the chaos of the 1755-56 Indian attacks. Therefore the first records of Dreisbachs who paid taxes in Lehigh Township are found on the 1761² tax list which lists Jost, Adam, Simon and John Dreisbach.

The man named 'John Dreisbach' (who almost certainly is 'unknown' John) on the 1761 tax list continues as the only 'John Dreisbach' on the lists until 1770 when he was joined by a "John Dreisbach Jr. From then on, a John Sr and a John Jr were listed. There is NO implication of father and son for Sr and Jr. The differentiation between Sr and Jr is based purely on age.

Who was John Dreisbach Jr? At the time of the application below (1766), there were only two men in Lehigh Township named 'John Dreisbach' who were old enough to be taxed and they were 'unknown' John and John, the youngest son of Simon Sr who had been born in 1735. As mentioned, he was only 14 when 'unknown John' warranted the above tract of land in 1749. John, the son of Simon Sr, is clearly younger than 'unknown' John and must be the second John to appear on the tax lists, as 'John Dreisbach Jr.'

Therefore, all 'John Dreisbachs' on tax lists between 1761 and 1770 refer to John Dreisbach Sr who we know was 'unknown John'. Starting in 1770 and continuing on, he is on the tax lists as 'John Dreisbach Sr'. For unknown reasons John, the youngest son of Simon Sr became taxable in 1770. Given his age and that he was married, he should have been taxed earlier. Either he had just returned from living in Tohickon or more likely, he was just now taking up his own land, having previously been living with one of his brothers or his father.

Knowing that only 'unknown' John Dreisbach was taxed all through the 1760's, we can be reasonably certain that he was the man who made the following application for a warrant. John went to Philadelphia³ with relatives and neighbors who all put in applications for land on one and the same day, 22 October 1766. On this day we find applications from ten men, all from Lehigh and nearby Townships: Adam "Feisback" – 2 applications, John and Henry Bichley, one application each, Jost "Freisbach", Adam and Valentine Mersh and John Triesbach, all making one application each. Michael and Nicholas Sneider and Philip Schuch were also in the group, making applications in Moore and Plainfield Townships.

III.2. 22 October 1766, to "John Triesbach". The applicant may be 'unknown' John, or more likely it was John, the son of Simon Sr We include this transaction under both men until further research determines which John carried out the 1766 application for a warrant.

East Side Applications #2001. 22 October 1766. 100 acres in Lehigh Township

The adjoining lands, as listed in the application, are: The Proprietaries Land, Jost Triesbach and Adam Triesbach.

No survey or survey map known.

Part of this 100 acres was the triangular tract for which John Dreisbach, the son of Simon Sr, subsequently took out a separate warrant 15 June 1785 (map C234-133).

For earlier views of this triangular tract, see the series of maps of Jost Dreisbach's principal land: A33-38 (map of 20 Nov. 1765), here the triangle bears the inscription, "Vacant Land".

D39-18 (map drawn after 22 October 1766), most of the triangle now bears the name, "John Triesboch", but the point of the triangle, which ends at Indian Creek, is labelled vacant.

B-553 (map of 25 May 1785) shows the entire triangle as now belonging to John Treisbach the youngest son of Simon Sr

Tax records indicate 'unknown' John Dreisbach moved between 1764 and 1766: There was a 31 March 1764 application by Hutchinson and 20 May 1776 survey⁴ of it which mentions going past a stone in J. Triesbach's line. "Beginning in the Indian Land line thence by Adam Triesbach, east 41 ½ to stone in J Triesbach line, south by Conrad Crider's land 44 to stone in the line of the 700 acre tract on s line west 41 ½ to a stone in the Indian Tract north to place of beginning. From this we know that in 1767 'unknown' John's land was owned by him. These directions reflect the piece of land on survey map D13-188 which was adjacent to, but not included in, the area called the Indian Tract.

That he was living on this land is confirmed by the 1764 Lehigh Township tax list. Unlike other lists, was not alphabetized by the collector so we can see the order in which taxes were collected and this gives us an idea of where people were living. Jost, Adam and Simon were listed one after the other and we know their properties were contiguous. However 'John Dreisbach' is separated from the other Dreisbachs by 64 names. The person on the tax list before John Dreisbach was Christian Ruffner, who owned the tract adjacent to 'unknown' John. This confirms that 'unknown' John was living on his 1749 tract of 25 acres, exactly as shown on the surveyor's map. He was *not living inside the Indian Tract* (this is important to note).

'Unknown' John moves to the Indian Tract: In 1766, for the first time, tax assessments identified people who lived *inside* the Indian Tract. Those with legal title to their land had to pay a *quit rent*, a small sum paid yearly to the Penn Proprietors. Squatters living *inside* the Indian Tract did not have legal title to their land and so paid no quit rent. The 1766 tax list shows John Dreisbach not paying quit rent and therefore living inside the Indian Tract! Sometime between 1764 and 1766 he moved from the tract he warranted in 1749 to a different piece of land, this time inside the Indian Tract. Thereafter, in all tax documents, 'unknown' John is shown as living inside the Indian Tract. The best guess is that there was a transaction within the family whereby Adam 'bought' the tract that was warranted by 'unknown' John.

The 1767 tax lists has one John (which must be 'unknown' John) living in the Indian Tract (i.e. paying no quit rent) and George Dreisbach, son of Simon Sr, shows up for the first time as well, also living in the Indian Tract. The tax list does not change until 1770 when John Dreisbach Jr shows up and, he also pays no quit rent and must be living inside the Indian Tract! Thus 'unknown' John, who was probably a cousin of Simon Sr, and George and John, sons of Simon Sr are all 'squatting' inside the Indian Tract, close together, ready to petition for a warrant to own as soon as this is allowed.

The 1770⁵ and 1772⁶ tax lists have two men, John Dreisbach Sr and John Dreisbach Jr (again implying age, not father-son relationship) listed as laborers, meaning they are living inside the Indian Tract. Then, in 1775⁷ the Lehigh Township tax list adds a *third* John Dreisbach! Fortunately this addition is qualified by calling him a "gerber", that is, a tanner, meaning he is the son of Simon Dreisbach Jr, taking over his father's property and tannery.

In 1780⁸ we have the same three men residing in the Indian Tract. These three appear in all the tax and assessment lists, including 1787, but in the 1788 Lehigh Township assessment and tax lists and from there forward, there are only two men named John Dreisbach and John Dreisbach Jr. Presumably 'unknown' John, who was the most senior of the three men named John, died sometime between 1787 and 1788.

Where the land of “unknown” John Dreisbach can be found today:

- **To see the original 1749 tract:** Originally 25 acres, it was subsequently enlarged to 125 acres. Start at the intersection of Route 248 and Walnut Drive in Cherryville, PA. Go north on Walnut drive and turn right on Murphy Road. Go east on Murphy Road. Apricot Drive will be on your left. This is the northeast corner of the Indian Tract. Do not turn on to Apricot Drive, but as soon as you pass it, you are driving through ‘unknown’ John’s 1749 tract. For the next ½ mile you will be driving through the upper part (the section that was added after 1749). There are no roads through the original, lower section of the tract.
- **To see Triangle tract warranted in 1766:** Go north on Walnut Drive. When you pass Murphy road, check your mileage. About 0.4 to 0.5 miles later you will pass through the western ‘point’ of the triangle. As you continue on Walnut Drive the road will bend east. For the next 0.2 miles, the Triangle is the land on your right. The road then bends northeast, continue to Cedar Drive and turn right onto Cedar Drive. The Triangle tract is to your right starting at the top of the hill and going down the other side.

¹ Personal communication with Jochen Karl Mehldau.

² Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Northampton County Papers, 1761 Lehigh Township tax list.

³ Ibid. p. iv

⁴ Book 70, Surveyor’s Field Notes 1775-1779, Northampton County Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

⁵ Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Northampton County Collection #456, Northampton County Papers, Box 2, Volume 1770, “Treasurer’s Report 1754-1770”.

⁶ PA Archives Series 3 Vol. XIX, p. 58.

⁷ Northampton County Archives, Easton, PA., Assessments Hamilton to Lowhill, in a box SKP340361928, (incomplete, missing the last page).

⁸ Fritts, P. *History of Northampton County, Pennsylvania, with illustrations descriptive of its scenery..* Pub. in Philadelphia and Reading, 1877.

IV. SIMON DREISBACH SENIOR - Born in Oberndorf, Wittgenstein. Baptized on 7 August 1698 in Feudinggen, Wittgenstein in what is now Nord-Rhein Westfalen, Germany. Died in Lehigh Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania on 31 March 1785. Buried in Zion Stone Church cemetery, Kreidersville, PA.

On 11 July 1720, in Feudinggen, Wittgenstein, Simon married Anna Katharina Keller (b. 1696, d. 1768), known to the family as 'Ketti'. Simon was 47 and Katharina was 49, when they and their 5 sons and one daughter secretly left Oberndorf. After a journey of almost four months, they arrived in Philadelphia aboard the ship, Lydia, on 19 September 1743. They travelled with at least 23 people who came from Wittgenstein and contacts made during the voyage were influential in surviving the difficult period immediately after arriving in PA. A young man on board the Lydia, Christian Richstein (b. 1723) who was close in age to Jost and Adam, was traveling to meet his brother, Kraft Richstein (b. 1720) who worked at the Reeser Tannery in Germantown. Tanning was hard and smelly work and help was always needed at the tannery. We believe Kraft Richstein offered work to the Dreisbach family, resulting in at least Adam and Simon Jr being employed there. Simon Sr may also have worked there, but unlike his two sons, he never showed any interest in tanning or leather working once the family was settled in Lehigh Township.

Only four years after arriving, Simon now age 51, and Katharina age 53 were settlers on the frontier in Lehigh Township, Northampton County. This was a fairly advanced age for people who had heavy work to do: clearing trees, building a house and a barn, ploughing a 'rough' field and planting crops to sustain the family for the year to come. Imagine people who were used to living in a village now living in near isolation in the wilderness. Perhaps this is one reason the Dreisbachs chose to warrant lands that were close to each other.

While we have a great deal of information about Simon Sr's life in Wittgenstein, thanks to the efforts of Heinrich Imhof¹, (see the Dreisbach Emigration Research Report²), there is little information about Simon Sr's life after he arrived in Pennsylvania. We know he organized a 1752 petition to the County Quarter Sessions Court to ask for the formation of Lehigh Township³. In 1754 he was a tax collector for Lehigh Township⁴ and possibly as a result of this, Simon Sr was involved in many court cases between 1753 and 1756⁵. A few years later, in 1758, Simon Sr and his good friend, John Dieter, walked to Easton to ask the church authorities to provide a pastor for three small German Reformed congregations that served all of Lehigh Township, including the Dreisbach Church at Josts, which had been built on Jost's land⁶. This is the last known record of Simon Sr. He is not listed in any extant tax records suggesting he was living with one of his children and in his later years may have been incapacitated.

Simon Sr's land dealings are not clear. We present the transactions as we currently understand them. His unusual dealings begin with the November 1748 warrant of Henry Creamer⁷ in which Creamer lists "Simon Risbough" as a neighbor. In this case the name "Dreisbach" must have been said out loud to an English-speaking scribe who heard and wrote "Simon Risbough" but the document definitely refers to our Simon Dreisbach Sr. From this we know that by 1748 and possibly earlier, Simon lived on and presumably claimed the land next to Creamer. There is no evidence that Simon Sr warranted this land, however it was under Dreisbach control and went through several family transactions. Much of this area was warranted by Simon Jr in 1755. Another portion was patented by John, son of Simon Dreisbach Junior, in 1784. That Simon did not warrant the land next to Creamer and Kersner although he apparently claimed it, is just one of Simon's perplexing land dealings. However, amid these somewhat strange events it became clear that within the short span of time between 1747 and 1749 a pattern of warranting connected lands was emerging. That it was evident so early indicates agreement and cooperation.

Simon Sr was 87 when he died in 1785 and is buried in the cemetery of Zion Stone Church in Kreidersville, PA. His original tombstone was replaced in the 1920's, possibly by the Dreisbach Family Association, but the original stone has disappeared. Simon's wife, Katharina, died 22 May 1766 and she was buried in the cemetery of the old church at Jost's. After Zion Stone Church was built, the old cemetery fell into disuse and eventually surviving tombstones were placed at the edge of what became a farmer's field. In the 1920's they were removed and built into a monument which stands in the cemetery of Zion Stone UCC Church, Kreidersville, PA.

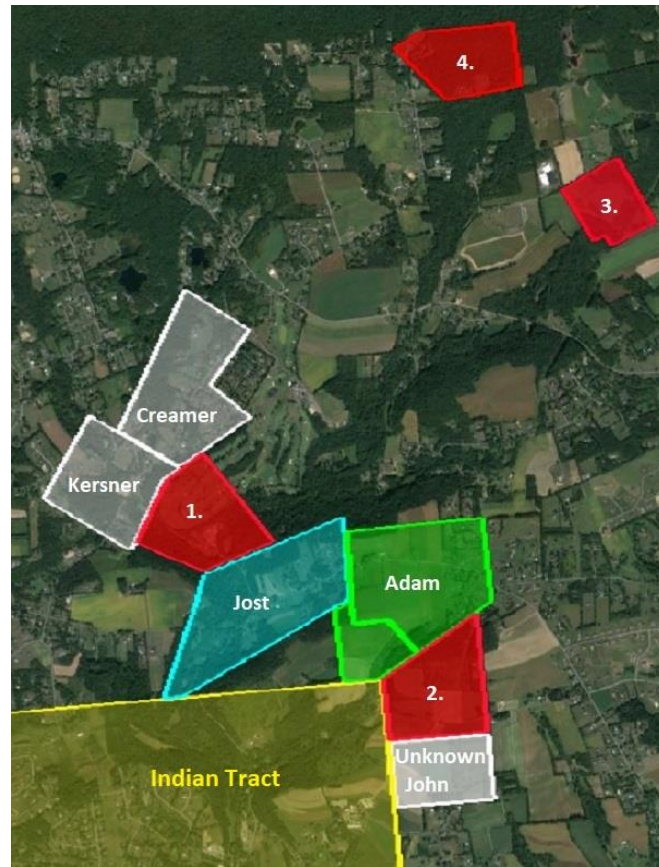


Fig. 6. Tracts warranted, or lived on, by Simon Dreisbach Sr are shown in red. 1) Approximate area of land unofficially claimed by Simon Sr in 1747 or 1748 as shown on warrant application of Henry Creamer. 2) First tract warranted by Simon Sr in 1749. 3) In 1750 Simon warranted land far from the cluster of Dreisbach tracts. We do not know if he ever lived on this land. 4) In 1755 Simon Sr warranted another tract even farther away from his sons. This may have been an investment property to harvest lumber.

IV.1. Prior to November 1748 (not a warrant for Simon Dreisbach Sr, but provides information)

Warrant to Henry Creamer, Bucks Co. Warrant Register #C-118, p. 13, Bucks County Warrant Register Surveyed on 21 November 1781 to Simon Treisbach Jr in right of Philip Clingersmith Survey maps C25-110, C44-74

Returned 9 April 1788 Patented to John Dreisbach (son of Simon Dreisbach Jr), 21 September 1784, Patent Number P-3-47, p. 315, called Driesbacks' Farm.

Henry Creamer's warrant of 12 November 1748 has this additional information "...for 50 acres adjoining Simeon Rissbough (Drisbough/Dreisbach) and Leonard Guessler (Kersner) above the Forks of Delaware to pay £210"⁸. Henry Creamer's land is several tracts north of Jost's land, strongly suggesting that as early as 1748 Simon Sr was occupying this intervening land. Although the Senior or Junior title is not specified, we are certain it is Simon Sr who was referred to because Simon Jr was only 18 at that time and living in Germantown. However, when Simon Jr did come north to join the rest of the family in Lehigh Township, this seems to be the first tract he warranted, in 1755, as shown on survey map A45-240. There is a reasonable chance that Simon Sr actually had applied for a warrant for this land. Applications often were written on scraps of paper and there are many boxes of these in the storage facility of the PA Archives. Only a portion have been recorded and even fewer are available online so a transaction by Simon Sr may have taken place.

Oddly, in 1749 we find Simon Sr warranting 50 acres of land considerably farther to the southeast of the Creamer tract. This was the first land we know of that was warranted by Simon Sr. It is curious that Simon Sr did not warrant the land he'd been squatting on but instead warranted land somewhat far away. In some way this initial tract of land must have been "safely" under the control of the Dreisbachs and the need to warrant land at the northeast corner of the Indian Tract, must have taken precedence. That there was a need to take control of this land for the Dreisbach family is further supported by the actions of an 'unknown' John Dreisbach, who is discussed in the next section.

IV.2. 25 May 1749, to "Simon Tricebaugh".

Bucks Co. Warrant Register "T" 80. 50 acres. No location given.

No survey or survey map known.

A part can be seen on a surveyor's map where it is shown next to the tract purchased by an unknown John Dreisbach, discussed in the next section).

For a long while we could only speculate on where this tract was located. The logical place would be the area where Simon Sr was named as a neighbor in the 1748 warrant by Henry Creamer. However, the discovery of a very early surveyors map⁹ shows that Simon Sr's tract was adjoining the one warranted by an unknown John Dreisbach in 1749 (discussed in the next section). The outline of Simon's 1749 tract is not shown, but on the east side it abutted the land of Christian Ruffner. On the west side it abutted the Indian Tract and on the north side it was adjacent to land that claimed by Adam and subsequently warranted to him. The southern boundary was adjacent to the land of 'unknown' John Dreisbach. From this we have a very good idea of its location at the northeast corner of the Indian Tract. As such it was very valuable land which, along with the lands of Adam and Jost, controlled access to and settlement in, the northeast corner of the Indian Tract itself. It was an integral part of the Great Plan.

IV.3. 7 March 1750, to "Simon Trevsbach".

(A curious purchase. This is land a few miles away from the other Dreisbach tracts.)

Bucks Co. Warrant Register "T" 93. 25 acres on Indian Creek.

Surveyed on 16 June 1752. Shown to contain 39 acres and 136 perches.

Survey map A7-82.

No return or later information.

However this tract appears on a later survey map (C43-210), made in 1782, where it is inscribed "late Simon Treisbach now Heirs of Henry Peigle". Later still, survey map C45-263, made in 1835, shows Simon's tract with the inscription, "late Simon Dreisbach now Susanna Deater".

In the beginning of our navigating through the thousands of early survey maps, it was not easy to locate this tract – Simon's second piece of land. Its survey map A7-82, made in 1752, shows only vacant land on all sides except for a little corner where "Willm. Dutter" is written. There is a map, compiled by members of the Dieter family¹⁰, that shows the seven interconnected Dieter tracts in Moore Township, and at the northern end of these tracts there are two pieces of land said to have once belonged to Simon Dreisbach. Though the shapes do not quite match with what is shown on Simon's survey map, A7-82, this was at least a lead.

Then another survey map was found, C78-205, which showed land warranted on 23 March 1750 by a George Hartman. It contained two streams that corresponded to the streams on Simon's A7-82 map and what is more, the adjoining land to the west was said to belong to Simon Treisback. So here we had found Simon – taking up land not in Lehigh Township, but in Moore Township, somewhat removed from Jost and the other Dreisbachs. This is a strange event about which we know nothing and can only speculate. Did Simon ever live on this land?

What happened to this property? In 1782 this tract was in the hands of the "Heirs of Henry Peigle" (map C43-210). At no time is Simon Dreisbach listed on the Proprietary tax list for Moore Township, suggesting he was not residing there. As for "Henry Peigle" (Beigley, Bichley, Beighly, etc.), he was a member of Jost's Reformed congregation. A "Hannes Biegeli" was buried in the old churchyard in 1769. His small tombstone was later moved and embedded in monument at Zion Stone Church. The last we hear of this tract of Simon Sr is the inscription on

map C45-263, drawn in 1835, where Simon's land bears the inscription, "late Simon Dreisbach (most likely now referring to Simon Jr) now Susanna Deater".

IV. 4. October 1755, to "Simon Triesbach Sr" Yet a third problematic Simon Sr tract.

Northampton Co. Warrant Register "T" A-36. 25 acres in Lehigh Township.

No survey or survey map found.

Returned 2 Oct. 1813, 41 acres and 100 perches, to George Herman.

Patent H10-99 of 2 October 1813 by George Herman.

This tract is visible in part on maps D6-264 and C102-182, of 1785 and 1786, respectively.

The Warrant Register is specific. This is Simon Sr, and he is warranting a small tract of 25 acres in 1755, when he is 57 years old. The tract is located quite close to Blue Mountain and may not have been suitable for agriculture. By 7 June 1785, the date of survey map D6-264, Simon Sr had been dead a little over two months. Here the inscription on his tract reads, "late Simon Treisbach. Conrad Laubach". There is another survey map made only 1½ months later (C79-20 of 25 July 1785) where Simon's land is shown, with the inscription, "Late Simon Dreisback now Conrad Laufer". The following year, in February 1786, on map C102-182, Simon's former tract is shown in two parts – one says "vacant", and the other, "Jacob Wall". It is possible that Simon made over this tract to Conrad Laubach/Laufer before his death in early 1785, and that by 1786 half had been taken over by one Jacob Wall and the other half was vacant. It is a mystery why Simon's former tract was not patented by anyone until 1813.

Where the land of Simon Dreisbach Sr can be found today.

- Simon's 1748 land claim was along Indian Creek north of Howersville, and perhaps along Walnut Drive at some unspecified place between Beech Drive and Dogwood Road.
- Simon's 1749 warrant at the NE corner of the Indian Tract. Turn off Walnut Drive onto Murphy Road. Apple Drive marks the beginning of Simon's tract which continues for another ½ mile. To see the northern portion, From Murphy Road heading east, turn left onto Apple Drive. From here until you reach Cottonwood Drive the land on your right (to the south) is Simon Sr's land.
- Simon's 1750 land in Moore Township can be viewed on the south side of Delps Road between Red Maple Drive and Mink Road. A better view is from inside the Kleintop property. Enter the farm from Scenic Drive and ask permission at the house. A farm road winds past the Kleintop barns and ends at Indian Creek near a meadow that was once Simon's.
- Simon's mountainside is along the curve of Cottonwood Drive, at the edge of the State Game Lands.

¹ Heinrich Imhof, Wittgenstein emigration expert and author of *Hoffnung auf ein besseres Leben, Die Auswanderung aus Wittgenstein nach Americka im 18. Und 19. Jahrhundert*, pub. Harth druck, Siegen, 2018. pp. 441-442.

² DERR ref

³ 1752 Petition for a township Simon D. NCP Box 1 a 7640, Northampton County Papers, Historical Society of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA.

⁴ Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Northampton County Papers, book "Northampton County Treasurers Accounts 1754-1770".

⁵ Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Northampton County Papers, Book 66 Pleas and Prosecutions, seen and photographed by Robert Riffle, historian.

⁶ Dreisbach, Simon Jr. letter to Rev. Helfrich written January 1773, published in "The Reformed Church Review, Vol. XVIII, 1914, pp 206-218.

⁷ Warranted to Philip Clingersmith, 21 May 1751, #C-118, p. 13, Bucks Co. Warrant Register. Also Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Northampton Co. Papers, Warrants 1734-1749. Seen and photographed by Robert Riffle, historian.

⁸ Harrisburg, PA. Pennsylvania archives, Film 0984125 of the Bucks Co. land warrant applications.

⁹ Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Northampton County Papers, Manuscripts and Patents, Box 4, seen and photographed by Robert Riffle, historian.

¹⁰ Gundry, E. E., *John Dieter of Northampton County Pennsylvania and His Descendants*. Vol. I. privately published in 1973.

V. SIMON DREISBACH JUNIOR - Born in Oberndorf, Wittgenstein. Baptized 29 January 1730 in Feudingen, Wittgenstein in what is now Nord-Rhein Westfalen, Germany. Died in Allen Township, Northampton Co. on 17 December 1806. Buried Zion Stone Church, Kreidersville, PA. Married: 1) Maria Dorothea Dies (b. 1734, d. 1773), 2) Anna Maria Fuchs Gucker (b. 1736, d. Unknown).

Simon Jr was 13 when the family arrived, old enough to help support the family. Later in life, Simon Jr is shown on tax lists as a tanner, a trade he learned somewhere. There are strong indications that Simon Jr, along with Adam, worked at the Reeser Tannery in Germantown immediately after their arrival. As a young man he had documented associations with people who lived in Germantown suggesting that he remained there when the rest of the Dreisbach family settled in Lehigh Township, Northampton County¹. Remaining in the relatively urban area of Germantown would have provided connections to people who could be helpful for Simon Jr's subsequent political career.

Simon Jr was married in April 1752 in St. Michael's German Reformed Church, in Market Square, Philadelphia, to Maria Dorothea Dies or Döss (Doss, Dyce, Tice, etc.), whose family lived nearby. Almost immediately after marriage, Simon and Dorothea moved to Alsace Township, Berks Co., where two sons were born and were baptized in Reading in the same ceremony which took place in 1754².

About 1755, by Simon's own account³, he went to Lehigh Township where he warranted the land that Simon Sr had occupied in 1748. Simon Jr may have intended to settle his family there, however the French and Indian War was about to erupt and indications of trouble existed already in the summer of 1755. Dorothea was pregnant and most likely chose to remain with her family in Germantown rather than traveling north to Lehigh Township. It was a good choice. After the Indian attacks in December, virtually all settlers from Lehigh Township fled south to more secure places and Simon Jr apparently went back to the safety of Germantown. In 1759, while he was living there, Simon Jr purchased more land in Lehigh Township, and then promptly offered all of his land, 200 acres in total, for sale in the local newspaper! It appears he had decided to stay in Germantown.

That was not to be. Perhaps there was family pressure on Simon Jr not to sell this land but for him and his family to move to Lehigh Township where Jost, Adam, an 'unknown' John Dreisbach and possibly Simon Sr, all lived and farmed. About 1761, when the threat of Indian attacks had diminished, Simon Jr apparently decided to leave Germantown and move to Lehigh Township. He purchased a second tract of land which he called "Driesback's Farm" – a part of a extended mosaic of tracts along Indian Creek which he was to assemble over the years.

By then Lehigh Township was becoming a more populated area. It had three small Reformed and Lutheran congregations. Simon Jr, along with others, acted to combine them into a single congregation capable of supporting a minister. To this effect in 1771 he helped to found Zion Stone Church in Kreidersville located on the border between Lehigh and Allen Townships. The corner stone of the church was laid in 1772 and subsequently Simon Jr produced a record book for the church, done in beautiful, colored, calligraphy which can still be seen today in the church archives.

In 1773, Simon's beloved wife, Dorothea died after delivering still-born twins. This left Simon with young children and out of necessity, and as was the custom, he quickly remarried a 38 year old childless widow, Anna Maria Fuchs Gucker. By this time Simon Jr had begun a distinguished public career in Lehigh Township, now, in 1774 he transferred his home, farming and tanning activities southward, to Allen Township, to land owned by his new wife. It did not take long. The 1775 assessment list shows him already fully established in Allen Township. Here he lived among English speaking Scots with strong feelings about becoming independent of England. Simon may have already had similar leanings, but now he found himself in a place where he could actively help the cause.

During the Revolutionary War Simon Jr held numerous responsible posts including Judge of the Elections. In 1776 Simon Jr was elected as a representative to the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention where he sat with Benjamin Franklin and other famous men. Simon Jr was one of the signers of the Pennsylvania Declaration of

Independence, an act which, if the outcome of the Revolutionary War had gone the other way, would have led to him losing his fortune and quite possibly his life. Simon Jr remained active in the politics of Pennsylvania for 20 years, from 1774 to retirement at age 64 in 1794. At that time he belonged to Allen Township's not very numerous German-speaking gentry and was one of only four landowners in the township to be given the honorific title, "Esquire".

For most of his life in Northampton County, Simon Jr ran a moderately large tannery. He learned this trade after arrival in Pennsylvania, almost certainly at the Reeser Tannery in Germantown. Simon's first tannery was in Lehigh Township. After he moved south to Allen Township, his oldest son, John, took over the running of this tannery. Almost immediately after arriving in Allen Township, Simon Jr set up a larger tannery on property that had belonged to the late husband of his wife. Later, as Simon Jr got older, his son, Jacob, took over the daily duties of the tannery.

Simon Jr had four congenitally deaf children: John George (b. 1756) who served in the local militia in spite of his deafness, Adam (b. 1761), Daniel (b. 1764) and Sophia (b. 1766). Simon Jr made specific provisions for all four deaf children in his will⁴. It was only late in his life that Simon took care of the loose ends of his Lehigh Township properties, obtaining patents and otherwise regularizing them, including transferring most to his oldest son, John. We have included this tract (survey C44-74) because it was, in some ways, part of Simon Jr's land. Warranting and holding onto tracts of land in the mid to late 1700's could be tricky. Simply knowing the tract boundaries was difficult as surveys were often inaccurate. While this may not have mattered in some cases, in others, particularly where streams and other important features were located, it was a matter of great importance.

We are lacking many records, particularly transfers of land that took place within the Dreisbach family, but also records of tracts that were abandoned when people fled Lehigh Township during the years 1755-1763. For those who returned, like Simon Jr, neighboring properties that were abandoned were prizes. We can see this in the records of the tracts that eventually were owned by John, the oldest son of Simon Junior. It is almost certain that Simon Jr had a hand in obtaining these and for this reason, they are included here.

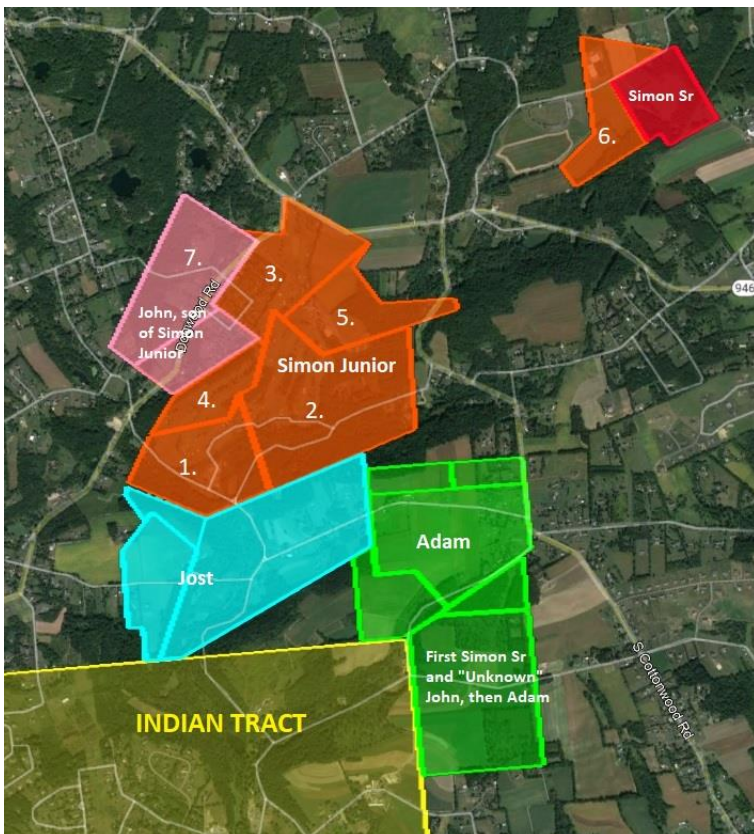


Fig. 7. Simon Dreisbach Jr tracts in order of their acquisition: 1) 1755. 2) 1759. 3) 1761, called 'Driesback's Farm'. 4) 1766, called 'Simplicity'. 5) 1772, called 'Trentown'. 6) 1772, in Moore Township, for Begley family. 7) 1787, tracts belonged to Simon Jr's oldest son, John. Top right in red, tract warranted by Simon Sr in 1750. Also shown, the tracts of Jost and Adam at their maximum.

V.1. 21 March 1755, to "Simon Triesback". Upstream from Jost's mill race.

Warrant of 21 March 1755 for 100 acres. "On Indian Creek near the Blue Mountains" (Lehigh Township, Northampton County).

Surveyed on 20 May 1758 to Simon Triesback, and shown to contain 52 acres and 107 perches.

Survey map A45-240.

Returned on 19 April 1759 to Simon Driesbach

Patent P3-49 of 22 September 1784 to Simon Drieszbach Jr

The first question to arise is which Simon was the warranter, Sr or Jr? We know that Simon Sr was living on land in this area in 1747-48 to ensure that Indian Creek above Jost's mills would remain in the family, but as far as we know, Simon Sr did not warrant it. As for Simon Jr, he stated that he first came to live in Lehigh Township in 1755⁵. At that time Simon Jr warranted the land where his father had once lived. This was necessary to protect land along Indian Creek which powered Jost's grist and sawmills. Within a few years there were many contiguous Dreisbach tracts in Lehigh Twp – a situation which would be gradually formalized as the Dreisbachs continued to make applications, have surveys carried out and sometimes, but not always, acquired patents to their lands.

After almost thirty years it is possible that Simon Jr, in his mid-fifties and comfortably settled in Allen Township, found it advisable to patent this property on 22 September 1784 to be able to sell or otherwise transfer it. However, on survey map (C104-110) of a neighboring tract, one sees that this, Simon Jr's first Lehigh Township tract, is still shown under his name in 1792.

V.2. 15 March 1759, to "Triesbach Simon". Simon Jr expands to the east, then almost immediately puts the tract up for sale.

Warrant Register "T" A-24. Warrant of 15 March 1759 for 100 acres. "On Indian Creek near Blue Mountain." (Lehigh Township, Northampton Co).

Surveyed on 19 March 1759, and shown to contain 134½ acres.

Survey map A24-111.

Returned on 19 April 1759 to Simon Triesbach.

Patent P3-48 of 10 September 1784 to Simon Triesback.

This tract lies adjacent to, and just to the east of Simon's earlier tract of 1755. It follows Indian Creek upstream, and encloses one of the small tributaries by means of a peaked extension at the top of the tract. This is a relatively large tract, and at the time of warranting, the land to the south was marked "Vacant" on the 1759 survey map. This vacant land, however, was already occupied by eldest brother Jost who, in an application of 1765, would extend his land northward to meet the southern edge of Simon Jr's two tracts of 1755 and 1759. On Jost's survey map of 1765 (A33-38) the land north of Jost is clearly marked "Simon Treisbach Jun.r".

In between Simon's acquisition of the two tracts on Indian Creek, the Indian attacks of 1756-1758 occurred. We know that Simon Jr and his family were in the Philadelphia area during at least part of this period because his son Johan Georg, born 31 January 1756, was baptized in Philadelphia, and Johan Petter, born 3 November 1757, was baptized in Germantown, as was Jacob, born 27 July 1759.

While his brothers were settling on the frontier, Simon Jr apparently wanted to stay in civilized Germantown and he put up his two tracts for sale. In order to sell them, he had to pay the necessary costs and get so-called 'returns' on his tracts. This he actually did, on 19 April 1759. A few days later, on 5 June 1759 he inserted a notice in the bi-weekly German newspaper, *Pensylvanische Berichte*, to the effect that he, Simon Dreisbach, in Germantown at the house of Baltes Roeser, offers a plantation of 200 acres in Lehigh Township, Northampton county, near Joost's (sic) mill. The actual combined acreage of Simon's two tracts does indeed come close to 200 acres. Jost and Adam may have been upset at this, but in the end, Simon kept his Indian Creek tracts, and subsequently acquired more land, beginning in 1761. It was not until September 1784 that Simon acquired patents on both these early tracts, the one warranted in 1755 and the other warranted in 1759 – within twelve days of each other most likely to facilitate the transfer to his oldest son, John.

V.3. 21 November 1761, to "Simon Treisbach junior". "Driesback's Farm".

Survey of 21 November 1761 to Simon Treisbach junior, "in name of Philip Clingersmith" (i.e. Simon had purchased the right to Clingersmith's warrant of 21 May 1751). Estimated in 1751, at the time of warranting, at 100 acres. Location: in the Forks of the Delaware (Lehigh Township)

When Simon had this tract surveyed in 1761, it was shown to contain 65 acres and 40 perches.

Survey map C25-110.

Returned on 13 September 1784 to Simon Triesbach Jr

Patent P3-47 of 21 September 1784 to Simon Triesbach Jr as "Driesback's Farm".

Although it was 1761 when Simon took over the tract from Clingersmith, the survey map shows there was still vacant land along three of the tract's edges. The insecurity connected with the Indian attacks of the later 1750's seems to have slowed down all types of land activities. Some of the Lehigh Township settlers moved away, permanently. This was the case with Philip Clingersmith who was born in Germany in 1725, and died in Westmoreland Co. in 1781. He married Maria Elizabeth Kepple, sister of John Nicholas Kepple, part of whose tract can be seen at the top of map C25-110. Nicholas Kepple also moved to Westmoreland Co., though he still claimed the Lehigh Township tract in 1761, when Simon had Philip Clingersmith's tract surveyed for his own use. We don't know why Simon Jr did not finish the process of obtaining land until late in his life when he was finalizing various things. At that time he patented three tracts in less than two weeks, on September 10, 21 and 22, 1784.

V.4. 15 May 1766, to "Simon Triesback". "Simplicity".

Northampton Co. warrant "T" 28 of 15 May 1766 to Simon Triesback.

Surveyed on 5 April 1787 and shown to contain 31 acres and 116 perches.

Survey map A84-215.

Returned on 10 February "1765" (obviously a copying error in the Warrant Register; should be 1795) to John Driesbach (son of Simon Jr)

Patent P23-259 of 23 February 1795. Name of tract: "Simplicity". (This is a double patent, where one patent number comprises two tracts patented 19 days apart. The other tract follows.)

Here Simon warrants the vacant land that lies north of his first two tracts and that separates them from the tract that Henry Creamer had warranted as early as 12 November 1748. Simon is filling in the empty spaces in his mosaic. It is not a large tract, and its irregular shape is dictated by that of the surrounding lands. Only after many years have passed does Simon make this tract over to his oldest son, John who patents it on 23 February 1795, seven years after he had acquired other lands lying to the immediate north. What John can have meant in calling the tract "Simplicity" we cannot know. However Simon, by warranting this little piece, has knit together the south-to-north succession of Dreisbach tracts in Lehigh Township

V.5. 14 April 1772, to "Driesbach Simon". "Trentown".

Northampton Co. warrant "D" 34, of 14 April 1772, for 40 acres.

Surveyed on 26 May 1785 and found to contain 43 acres.

Survey map A9-161.

Returned on 26 January 1795 to John Dresbach (son of Simon Jr). Name: "Trentown".

Patented by John Dreisback on 4 February 1795 as part of patent P23-259.

(The other tract in the patent, "Simplicity", treated above (map A84-215), was patented on 23 February 1795.)

This and the following warrant were Simon Jr's last known land transactions before he moved to Allen Township. There was apparently no more land available around Simon's tracts. Brother Jost was ensconced to the south. The large Leonard Kersner tract to the west had been warranted as early as 1748 (map C104-110), and in 1793 it was taken over by neighbor Philip Ecker (Ekert, Acker). Other tracts were spoken for by Philip's father, George Acker in 1759 (map C111-93), by Philip Sheaffer, formerly Nicholas Kepple (map C223-218), and by Conrad Sold or Solt (map A14-226). To the east, expansion was blocked by a series of smaller tracts: John Weidman, warrant of 1751 (maps D39-6, A14-226), Christian Laufer, warrant of 1771 (map C117-194), and George Smith, warrant of 1755, taken over in 1759 by Bernard Kuntz (map C117-193). This was no longer a pioneer area.

Now the first phase of the Dreisbach family's settlement of Lehigh Township is almost complete. There are still the tracts of two youngest brothers, George and John, and sister Catharina Ulrich to discuss, but already we can see, as we near the end of the 1700's, a solid block of family tracts, marching two or three abreast northward from the edge of the Indian Tract toward Blue Mountain.

V.6. 14 April 1772, to "Simon Dreisbach". A helping gesture?

Warrant of 14 April 1772 for 40 acres in Moore Township to Simon Dreisbach.

Surveyed on 5 January 1795 to Simon Dreisbach "in trust for the Heirs of Henry Bechtle deceased", and shown to contain 52 acres.

Survey map C45-263.

Returned 31 October 1835 to Conrad Dieter et.al., 52 acres.

Patent H35-485 of 31 October 1835 to Deeter, Conrad and Benjamin.

This and the preceding tract were warranted by "a" Simon Dreisbach on the very same day. There are several indications suggesting that this can only have been Simon Dreisbach Jr. In the first place, Simon Sr is not on the 1772 tax list for Northampton County. He is now 74, a widower, and has no taxable activities or property. Simon Jr, however, is operating on two fronts. In section **V. 5.** above, he warrants the last of the available tracts to complete his accumulation of land in Lehigh Township. At the same time he warrants a piece of land in Moore Township which lies next to what used to be his father's tract. This is an unexpected step for Simon Jr and it may not have been done for personal gain. The explanation lies, perhaps, in the Dreisbachs' relations with the Beiglie (Bichley, Peiglie, Biegeli and other variants) family.

We encounter two Beiglie's, Henry and John, in 1766, as part of a large group, including Dreisbachs, making applications at the Philadelphia Land Office for land in Lehigh and Moore Townships. John Beiglie died in 1769 and was buried at Jost's church. His tombstone was one of those that were transferred to Zion Stone Church's Cemetery and inserted into a monument there. Simon Jr probably had no interest in acquiring land in Moore Township, but warranted the land in 1772 for the benefit of the Beiglie heirs, who may not have been of legal age to do so. Simon's having the land surveyed in 1795 was an action clearly stated as being done on the heirs' behalf. We may never know exactly why Simon Jr took on this responsibility. For the next 40 years the tract's ownership question lay dormant until two Dieters of a later generation had it resurveyed in 1835. However that may be, technically this piece of land has its place on a list of Simon Dreisbach Jr's tracts.

V.7. 10 April 1788, to John Dreisbach "Driesbachsheim".

Bucks Co. warrant to Henry Creamer, 12 Nov. 1748, for 50 acre and second warrant to John Dreisbach, 13 November 1787.

Surveyed on 1 December 1787 to John Dreisbach the above two tracts of land containing 115 acres and 90 perches in Lehi Township, Northampton County.

Survey map C44-75.

Returned 9 April 1788 (in OLD) to John Dreisbach, Patent P14-90.

This is a complicated tract of land. Originally two tracts, one warranted already in 1748 by Henry Creamer. The second and larger tract must have been occupied by the early 1750's but no warrant has been found. That does not mean that a warrant does or did not exist. It may be that the person fled during the Indian attacks of 1755/56 and never returned. However a survey of the tract directly to the north (C223-218) indicates that at the time of the survey, 21 May 1785, this tract was controlled by Simon Dreisbach Jr. Simon himself had long since moved to Allen Township, but the tract was associated with him at this time. A few years later, Simon's oldest son warranted this tract on 13 November 1787. Considering that we do not know when Simon Jr became involved with this tract, it is clear that this land was occupied by Dreisbachs for a considerable length of time, and therefore we include it in this section.

V.8. Simon Dreisbach Jr's farm in Allen Township.

Simon's first wife dies, he remarries. Simon Jr's first wife, Maria Dorothea Toes, died on 8 July 1773, four days after the birth of stillborn twins on the July 4th. That same year, with many young children at home, Simon remarried. Simon wrote in his family chronicle, "Ano 1773 bin ich wer Ehlichet mit Annamaria Kucker wite (i.e. widow) dan_ (i.e. Daniel, added at the edge of the page) Eine Ehliche Tochter der Conrad Fuchs ... The marriage of Daniel Kucker and Anna Maria Fuchs took place at St. Paul's (Blue) Church on 6 Nov. 1759 in Upper Saucon. She was born on 28 Oct. 1736. The Kuckers had settled in Allen Township More but information is needed on when Daniel acquired the land.

The tax records indicate that Simon Jr left Lehigh Twp and moved to Allen Twp during the years 1773-1774. Simon Jr did not sell his Lehigh Township lands, rather his oldest son, John (b. 1752), continued to live on and farm them – and run a small tannery while Simon established a much larger tannery on his Allen Township land. Simon finally sold this land to his son in 1795.

30 May 1774, Simon acquired the land of the late Daniel Kucker, the first husband of Simon's second wife Anna Maria Fuchs Kucker. Seen at the Office of Deeds, Northampton Co. Court House (not the deed, but the listing of it): the deed was recorded on 3 Nov. 1774, and is record no. C1-114.

One transfer of money, and three tracts deeded to Simon Jr 1781 – 1786. (From the Office of Deeds, Northampton Co. Court House)

- 12 May 1781, recorded 22 March 1783, record no. D1-14: 575 pounds from Peter Fos (Fox/Fuchs) and wife to Simon.

Simon enlarged the Kooker/Gucker tract by purchasing land from the immediate neighbours.

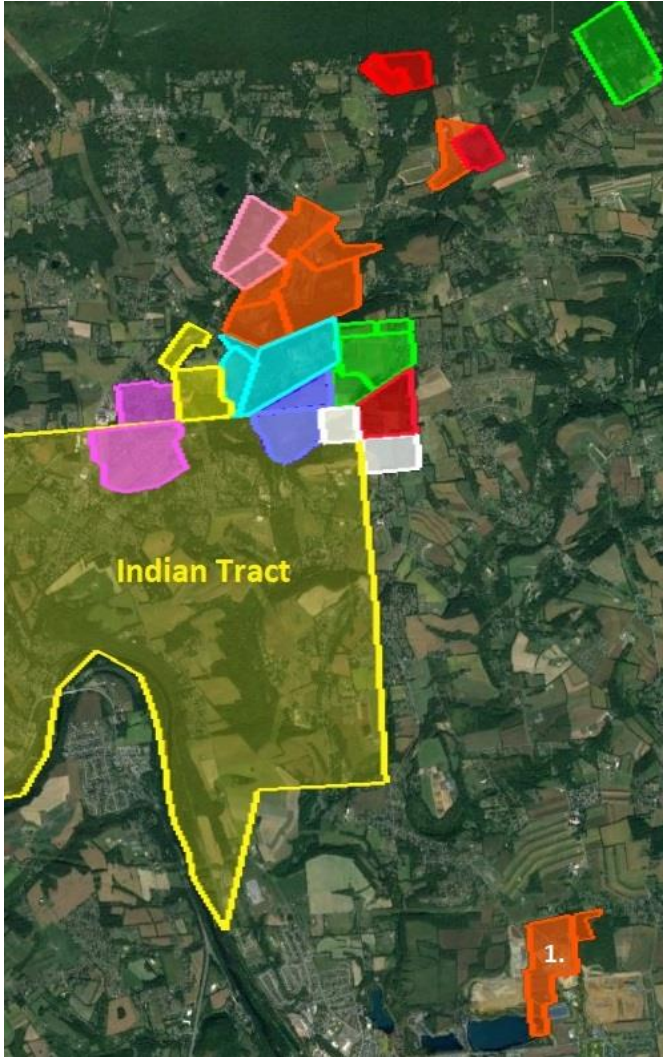
- 16 April 1784, date of deed, recorded 24 Dec. 1784, record D1-280, from Neigal Gray and wife to Simon.
- 5 January 1785, date of deed, recorded 1 May 1786, record E1-261, from Neigal Gray and wife to Simon.
- 27 April 1786, date of deed, recorded 1 May 1786, record E1-266, from Robert Craig and wife to Simon.

Later transfer of Allen Township tracts to Simon, recorded in 1802: It appears that in 1802, as Simon was getting old, he decided to regularize transactions which had occurred without the aid of formal documents.

- 23 April 1791, date of deed, recorded 11 Jan. 1802, record G2-190, from John N. Hauer and wife to Simon.
- 1 Jan. 1796, date of deed, recorded __ Jan. 1802, record G2-185, from Jacob Dreisbach and wife to Simon.
- 12 January 1799, date of deed, recorded 11 Jan. 1802, record G2-186, from Christian Hagenbuch and wife to Simon.
- 12 January 1799, date of deed, recorded 11 Jan. 1802, record G2-188, from Christian Hagenbuch and wife to Simon.

Surveys indicate that Simon Jr's Allen Township lands were bordered by Howertown Road on the west, Mud Lane on the north, and what was the Hower farm on the south. The Hower farm was on Howertown Rd., just north of Rte. 329 and a stone farmhouse remains there (2021). A visit to Simon Jr's property in 2015 by Marcia Dreisbach Falconer confirmed there were no visible remains of Simon's farm although there was a stone house on the property which was built after 1836. We have two descriptions of Simon's house. One is found in the 1798 United States Direct House Tax of 1798 of Allen Township Simon's dwelling is described as 35 x 22 ft., built of log and 2 storeys high, with taxes in the medium range. The other description comes from the sale of his house almost 40 years later. Simon died in 1806 and Simon's son, Jacob, purchased the land (and the tannery) from the estate and lived there until 1836 when he died. At that time, the estate advertised a public auction to sell the house and other buildings and the land. The description of the sale says "195 acres, 8 perches. The improvements are a large and convenient two story LOG HOUSE, a log barn, and an excellent stone spring house..." A Google Earth view of this property in October 2021 shows that all structures have been demolished and the land is being prepared for a commercial structure.

Simon Jr's daughter, Elizabeth Hower, lived in the Hower house just to the south of Simon's land, until 1833. Oral tradition among Hower descendants tells of Dreisbach chests and papers, including items that had been brought over from Wittgenstein, that had been stored on the Hower farm, presumably by Simon's daughter. They say that later on, a person new to the family (probably a wife), decided to get rid of all that old clutter. She carried it out to the yard and set it on fire. It took three days, the story goes, to burn all those precious documents and books!



Simon Jr's Will: The Last Will and Testament of Simon Dreisbach Jr is written in English with beautiful penmanship⁶. It was misfiled but can be found on microfilm at the Northampton County Register of Wills in Easton, PA. There is both a will and a complete inventory of Simon Jr's belongings which is fascinating to read. The actual will itself and the inventory list are located at the Northampton County Archives, 999 Conroy Place, Easton, PA. in the Simon Dreisbach Estate File, Folder #2513. It and much more information about Simon Jr is in the book available at Lulu.com *Simon Dreisbach Jr (1730-1806), A Most Interesting Life*, by Marcia Dreisbach Falconer.

Fig. 8. Google Earth view shows distance between Simon Jr's Allen Twp. property and the cluster of Dreisbach tracts. 1. The tract Simon Jr got from his second wife and the small tract he added at later. He had other transactions which are not shown. He retained ownership of all of his tracts in Lehigh Township, although they were farmed by his oldest son, John.

The Dreisbach tracts have colors indicating who warranted them (when known). Due to sales within the family, the owners (i.e. the colors) changed over time. It is not our intention to show what the Dreisbach family tracts looked like in 1774, rather to show them in their eventual entirety.

Where the land of Simon Jr can be found today:

- **Land in Lehigh Township:** To see the area once covered by Simon Jr's five connecting tracts is difficult to specify, tract by tract. However, there is a rough rectangle of roads that encloses most of Simon's land. Starting from the stone bridge in Howersville, drive north on Walnut Drive through Jost's land (map B 553) past the remnants of the millpond dam and the swampy pond. Take the first turn-off on the right, Beech Drive You are already on Simon's first tract (map A45-240), but only briefly. Continue on Beech Drive, along Indian Creek, very soon you are in Simon's large, peaked tract (map A24-111). Arriving at the end of Beech Drive, you have now passed along the lower edge of Simon's first two tracts, in the order in which they were acquired (tracts **V.1.** and **V.2.**).

- Beech Drive ends at Cottonwood Rd., where you turn left and continue to the next junction. Turn left onto Rte. # 946 (Mountain View Drive). As you go along Rte. 946 you will have passed on the left, part of tract **V.5.** (map A9-161) which was the last of Simon's Lehigh Township tracts, after which you will pass, still on your left, the 1761 tract **V.3.** (map C25-110).
- Arriving at the next junction, Dogwood Drive, turn left. Still on your left is another side of the 1761 tract, **V.3.**, which is followed for a short while by the narrow end of the small tract of 1766, **V.4.** (map A84-215). Dogwood Drive ends at Walnut Drive. Turn left on Walnut Drive and you will pass through the western part of Simon's first tract before re-entering Jost's former land at Howersville.
- **Land in Moore Township:** To see the land that Simon Jr held for the heirs of Henry Beigle (map C45-263), start near the hamlet of Rockville on Route # 946 (Mountain View Drive). Turn north on Delp's Road, and follow it as it forks to the right from Red Maple Drive. After about a mile, Delp's Road bends left and then right. You are now at the peak of this triangular tract, and the rest of the tract lies spread out southward, on the right. Much of it is wooded.
- **Land in Allen Township:** At the intersection of Route 329 (the Northampton-Bath Boulevard) and Howertown Road, turn right to go north on Howertown Road. A dirt road about a mile north of this intersection there leads off to the east. Simon's land lay here. No structures remain. A large commercial building is currently (2022) being erected on his land.
- Simon is buried in the cemetery of Zion Stone Church, Kreidersville, PA. The tombstone of his son and first wife were in the original, Jost's Church, which was decommissioned in 1771 and then rescued from the abandoned cemetery of this church. They, and a few other stones from the 'old' cemetery now are in the monument in the cemetery of Zion Stone Church. We do not know where the tombstone of his second wife is located.

¹ Falconer, M., *Simon Dreisbach Jr (1730-1806), A Most Interesting Life*. Pub. by Lulu.com, 2016., pp 2-5.

² Dreisbach, Simon Junior. His own handwritten account of the births and baptisms of his children was last in the possession of William Fiedler, a descendant through Simon Jr's daughter Elizabeth Dreisbach Hower. The whereabouts of the document after the 2010 death of Wm Fiedler is not know. A poor photocopy can be seen in the library of the Lehigh County Historical Society in Allentown, PA.

³ Stoudt, J. B., *Colonial Correspondence: Edited and Annotated in The Reformed Church Review* Vol. XVIII (1914) pp. 206-218.

⁴ Simon Dreisbach Jr Will: Register of Wills, Northampton County, PA, #9914 Will Book #4, p. 258; #9915 WB #4-259; #9915 WB #4-260; #9915 WB #4-297 (additional codicil).

Also, Will of Simon Dreisbach Junior, File #3762, Northampton County Courthouse, Easton, PA. Microfilm.

⁵ Letter written by Simon Jr and cited in William J. Heller, History of Northampton County, The American Historical Society, 1920, vol. II, p. 492

⁶ Ibid.

VI. GEORGE (GEORG WILHELM) DREISBACH - Born in Oberndorf, Wittgenstein. Baptized 14 June 1733 in Feudinggen, Wittgenstein in what is now Nord-Rhein Westfalen, Germany. Died after 1809, probably in West Penn Township which is now in Schuylkill County. Place of burial unknown. Married Sophia Schmidin (b. and d. dates unknown).

The fourth son of Simon Dreisbach Sr left records in three townships. He started out in Lehigh Township squatting on land inside Indian Tract Manor, then acquired land in Chestnuthill Township north of Blue Mountain, and finally settled in Penn (now West Penn) Township in present Schuylkill Co. There are many unanswered questions about George and his life, partly owing to his moving away from the Lehigh Valley.

We do not know where George was between arrival in Pennsylvania in 1743 and his first known appearance in the records in 1759 when he and his older brother Adam "Trashpack" made an inventory of the goods of Jost Dreisbach's late neighbor, John Dieter. George was then in his mid-twenties, married and most likely a father.

At some unknown date and place, we believe George married Sophia Schmidin (Schmidt/Smith). She might have been Moravian, possibly from Chestnuthill Township north of Blue Mountain where Smiths are known to have settled. Nothing more is known about her. Also missing is a complete list of the names and dates of birth of their children. Some sons and two possible daughters have been identified through various documents and are listed here in chronological order as best we can determine: John, Jost, Simon, Abraham, Henry, and presumed daughters, Maria and Catharine. Birth and death dates of all are unknown.

It must be noted that "a" George Dreisbach and wife Sophia are listed in the records of Zion Stone Church as having sons Jost William, Abraham and John Jacob. They are NOT the sons of George born 1733 and his wife Sophia Schmidt. These are the sons of George Dreisbach (son of Simon Jr) and his wife Sophia Jung/Young. Many of the first names of sons and daughters were used over and over in many Dreisbach families and through many generations causing untold difficulties to later genealogists!

George as a squatter in the Indian Tract in Lehigh Township: George first enters the Pennsylvania tax documents in the 1767/1768 Lehigh Township Tax assessment¹. He is shown as not paying *quit rent* which means he was residing illegally, i.e. 'squatting', inside the Indian Tract. We know he took up land there in 1767 because he is not included in a 1766 list of inhabitants of the Indian Tract² but he is assessed as living there a year later. The 1767 assessment says George has no acres plowed, one horse and one horned cattle. The following year he is assessed on 2 acres of land, one horse and two horned cattle. This suggests George was not dependent on farming to earn a living but worked as a carpenter and/or a millwright to support his young family.

We know where his tract was located because a 1768 deed transfer by Heffelfingers named George as a neighbor and the Heffelfingers appear on a map of the inhabitants of the Indian Tract.³ George did not stay long enough in the Indian Tract to be eligible to legally own it. The Penn Proprietors and later the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania did not allow tracts inside the Indian Tract to be purchased prior to 1784 and most were not purchased until the 1790's.⁴ The tract George was living on eventually was warranted by an Adam Dreisbach in 1803. Exactly which of the several young Dreisbach men named Adam was the warranter is unknown but the most likely person is Adam, the son of Jost.

George helps to build Zion Stone Church: We believe George was indentured to a carpenter/millwright after the family arrived in 1743. We know that as an adult, he did skilled carpentry work and repaired mills and we that he was the only member of the Dreisbach family who did this kind of work. From the accounts maintained in connection with building the first Zion Stone Church in 1771-2, we see that George Dreisbach was paid for doing carpentry. By then George was a mature 38, so it was probably qualified joiner's work or even cabinet-making. However, he cannot have been very affluent, for his 1771 pledge toward the building fund is the lowest of any Dreisbach, only 1 pound, 7 shillings, 6 pence.

One must question the statement⁵ which says that in 1773 there were three men in Lehigh Township who had grist mills: Thomas Wilson, Jost Driesbach and George Driesbach. In the 1772 Proprietary tax list for Lehigh Township, George is listed as a laborer, not a miller, and pays a low tax of 12 shillings, certainly not the tax that would be imposed on a mill owner. However on the 1773 tax roll he is listed as having a sawmill. This probably was a small structure, and having this would not significantly affect his tax rate. George appears in all the tax documents for Lehigh Township from 1768 through 1779 and often is listed as a “joiner” (i.e. skilled carpenter). By 1779 he had accumulated more land, inside the Indian Tract and had 80 acres, one horse and two horned cattle.

A loyalty oath: As the Revolution was gaining steam, the General Assembly of Pennsylvania (of which Simon Driesbach Jr was a member) made it mandatory that all white males over 18 years old must come before a Justice of the Peace and swear an oath to renounce allegiance to “George the Third, King of Great Britain, his heirs and successors; and that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as a free and independent state, and that I will not at any time do or cause to be done any matter or thing that will be prejudicial or injurious to the freedom and independence thereof”⁶. George took this oath on the 18th of August 1777⁷.

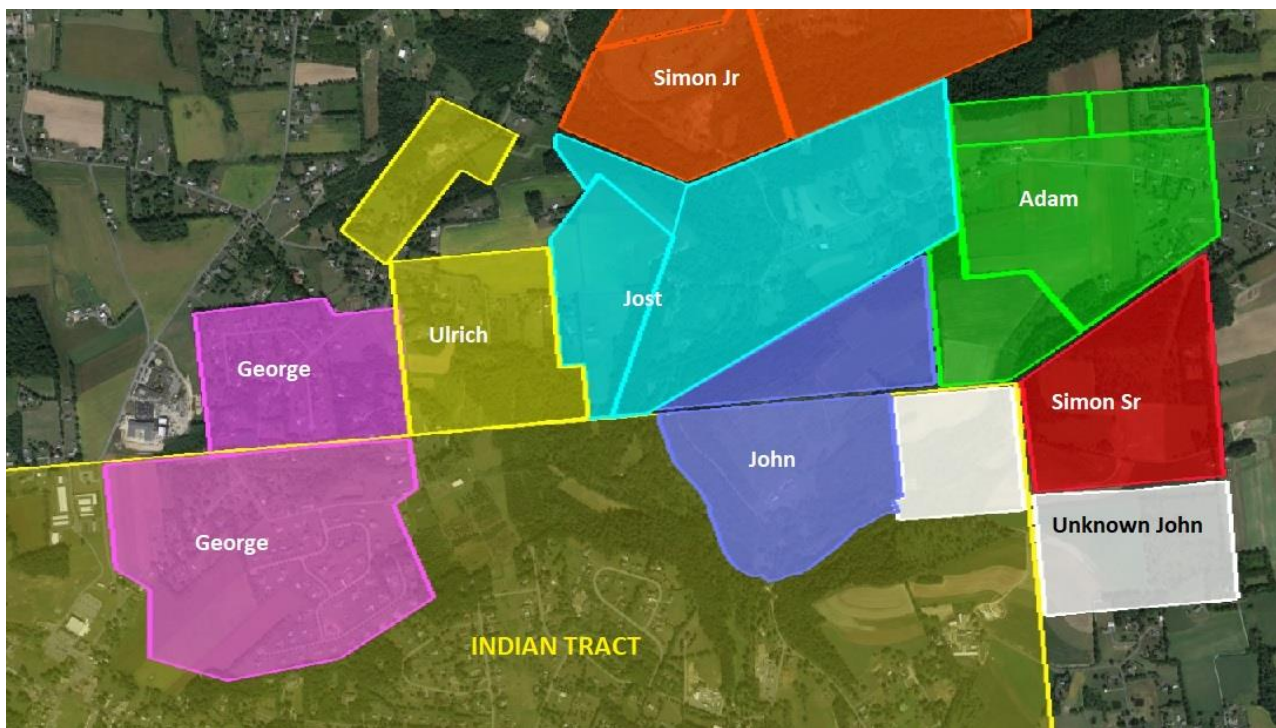


Fig. 9. In pink, land occupied by George in Lehigh Township. Tracts inside the Indian Tract could not be warranted until 1784. George occupied the area in pink from at least 1768 (and most likely earlier) until 1780 and left well before he could legally obtain title. It is uncertain if his land included the area outside of the Indian Tract which was subsequently owned by an Adam Driesbach. The other Driesbach tracts are shown according to the person who initially warranted them although eventually some were later traded within the family or sold to others.

George moves to Chestnuthill Township in 1780 and to Penn Township about 1786: Beginning in 1780, George is no longer on the tax or assessment lists for Lehigh Township, he had moved to the area of Gilbert’s in Chestnuthill Township (now in Monroe County). We believe this was the area where his wife was from, raising the possibility he moved for family reasons. There is no known record of George acquiring land in Chestnuthill Township although there are records of the sale of land belonging to George. From this we infer that there may have been a family transaction in which George’s wife inherited her parents farm of 78 acres 18 perches. It appears George was not interested in staying in Chestnuthill, he had his eyes on much larger properties in Penn Township

(now West Penn Township) already in 1783/84. In 1785 George is listed in the Chestnuthill Township tax records. The list gives no other information than the amount of the tax, and George is taxed at the lower middle rate. He is not found here in the 1786 tax lists, but in 1788 George appears quite a distance to the west, in Penn Township, where he has 300 acres, one horse, one head of cattle and pays a low tax of 8 shillings 11 pence. From then on, his land dealings are reflected in archival records and survey maps. It appears that at least his oldest son, John, as well as a younger son, Conrad, remained in Chestnuthill as George's descendants seem to have bifurcated into a Chestnuthill Township branch and a West Penn Township branch.

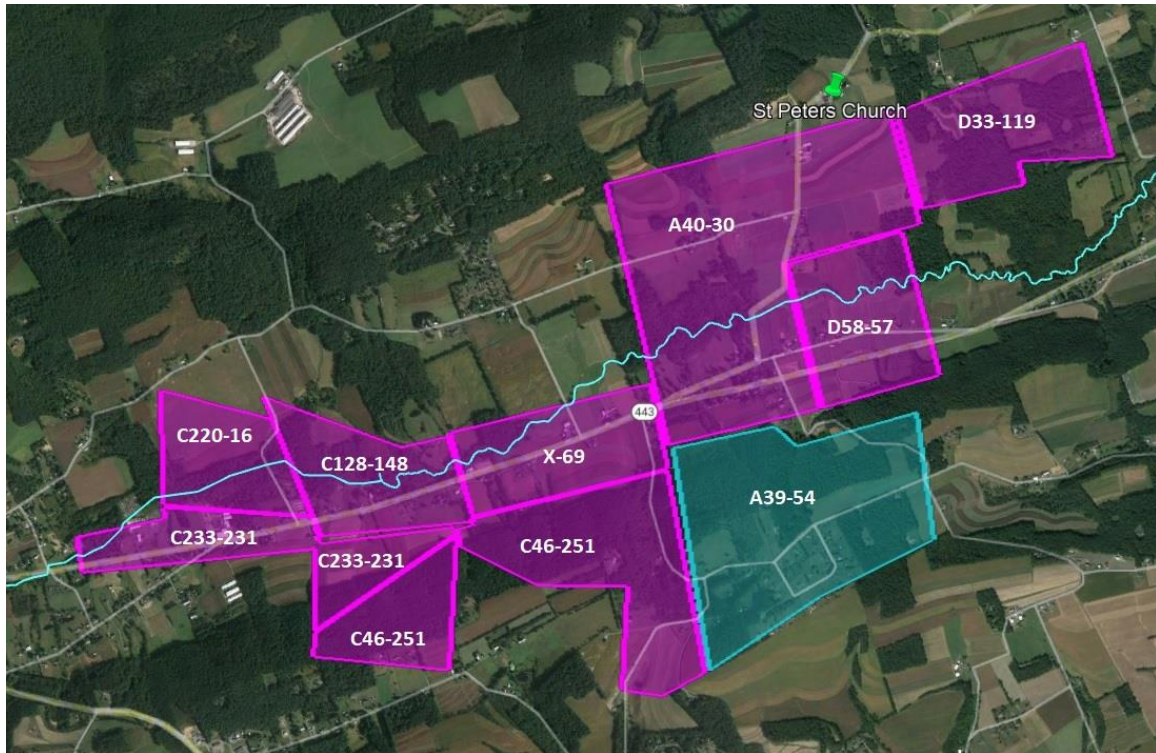


Fig. 10. George's presumed tracts in what is now West Penn Township, Schuylkill Co. PA totaled 1375 acres and are listed by survey number. With two exceptions these tracts were warranted and surveyed to somebody other than George meaning he purchased the land from a person rather than warranting it. Research to document his purchase of these tracts is needed. Only tracts X-69 and C46-241 show George as warrantor (the blue tract of survey A39-54 was warranted by George's presumed son, Simon under the direction of George). By examining surveys for neighboring tracts, we assembled the above group tracts that were warranted or controlled by George Dreisbach between 1785 and 1809. We do not know if George ever controlled all of the above tracts at one time. Wavy blue line is the Mahoning Creek.

VI.1. 21 December 1785: George Dreisbach transfers land in Chestnuthill Township to Conrad Kryder, "storekeeper of Allen Township".

More information is needed to ascertain when George acquired land north of Blue Mountain in Chestnuthill Township and if it was a family transaction. We do not have a survey of his land but know it was near present day Gilbert's. In 1803 this land was later transferred by Kreider to John Dreisbach, presumed eldest son of George.

Sheriff Book 1 p. 14. Northampton County Archives, Easton, PA, Grantor Index p. 740.

78 Acres 132 perches

No known survey.

George moves to Penn Township (now West Penn Twp. in Schuylkill Co.) and acquires a great deal of prime land. The story of George in Penn Township is complex and incomplete. He was already involved in a

dispute over a Penn Township survey in 1785⁸ when he was still living in Chestnuthill. It is clear that he was planning on moving to Penn Township for many years.

We have only the barest of outlines of what he owned and/or claimed. In fact we have only two surveys for land warranted by George (and one survey for land warranted by his presumed son, Simon). The tracts shown above in Fig. 10, are *presumed* to have been owned by George based on surveys for other people which show George Dreisbach as a neighbor. If he was known to be a neighbor, it can be assumed that he controlled that land. Whether or not he ever formally warranted all these other tracts remains to be discovered.

We believe that George's first tract is shown in survey A40-30. This tract reflects a 1768 application by a man named William Gillom about whom nothing is known. It was valuable land, with the Mahoning Stream flowing through it. It appears that by 1785 Gillom had sold some or all of this tract to George Schlecher (according to surveys D33-119, D33-120) and George purchased the land from Schlecher.

In 1785, while George was being taxed and presumably still living in Chestnut Hill Twp., he purchased land from George Schlecher (see survey D33-119) that included at the very least the north-eastern section of the former Gillom tract. At about the same time, George wanted to purchase the land immediately to the east which was warranted by Peter Martz. There ensued an argument and a court case about surveyors and ownership. The conclusion of the court case was that George was awarded land shown in survey D33-119, and his opponents, Messemer and Reddy, were awarded the eastern portion of the Martz tract. There was a simultaneous court case over George's purchase of the Colley tract (survey D58-57) which apparently was rendered in favor of George – although documentation is lacking.

Thus, for a time between 1785 and 1792, George had a large, combined tract of about 566 Acres with the Mahoning Stream flowing right through his property. During these years he also was acquiring tracts to the west of his land. In 1792 George warranted the 114 acres of the tract shown in survey X-69 (called Simon's Hall). He also warranted tract C46-241. The surveys for these two properties indicate George also claimed tracts shown in surveys C233-31, C128-148 and C220-16. His ownership is shown on the map of George's lands but it must be kept in mind that documentary evidence that George owned these tracts has not yet been found.

George amassed an amazing 1375 acres of land in Penn Township. Whether he had this all at one time, or whether tracts were acquired and sold and other pieces acquired remains to be shown. What is clear is that George was not only a skilled carpenter and millwright but he was also a man who understood the way land was bought and sold in the late 1700's.

VI.2. 1786/87: George makes a contested purchase in Penn Township

At two meetings of the Board of Property, on 7 January and 3 March 1788, there was discussion of a complaint against George Dreisbach brought by two men, Michael Messemer and Conrad Rety, on the basis of their joint warrant of 27 January 1786 for 200 acres in Penn Township. The roots of the problem lay in two applications from 1768, #3056 to Alexander Colley and #3554 to Peter Martz/March. George had purchased the right to Colley's tract, but according to surveyor Palmer it had already been surveyed to someone else under the Martz application. The Board ruled in Messemer and Rety's favor, but gave George two months to show "cause to the contrary". The Board reconvened on 3 March, and this time George was part of a team of two, being accompanied by a "Leshner". The Board now ruled in Leshner's favor with regard to Martz's application #3554 since, apparently, Messemer and Rety could not produce their warrant. However, the 100 acres farthest from Leshner's other land were to go to Messemer and Rety, and they could fill the rest of the acreage in their warrant with vacant land "if it be found".⁹

Though much is unclear about these various claims, and the extant survey maps do not always agree, George felt he had made a rightful purchase, and that in the end he got the right to at least part of the Martz land. It has not been possible to identify the "Leshner" who made joint cause with George. Even though the decision went in George's favor the tract was not patented until 1814, when it went to a William Witman. Possibly as a result of the Board of Property's decision, George Palmer was back in Penn Township on 27 May 1789, when he made two new surveys. The maps based on these new surveys are D33-119 and C101-167.

D33-119. Peter Martz, application #3554 of 6 September 1728 for 300 acres.

This is the land accorded to George Dreisbach by the Board of Property. It is smaller in area than the original 300 acres, and may have been reduced in size in favor of the adjoining Messemer and Rety tract. No survey maps have yet been found which show this land as belonging to George Dreisbach, nor any land at all belonging to the unidentified "Leshar".

Surveyed on 27 May 1789 as having 142 acres 93 perches.

Returned on 19 February 1814 to William Witman.

C101-167. Michael Messemer and Conrad Reedy, warrant of 27 January 1786 for 200 acres.

Was George already living on the Martz 300 acres when he was taxed in Penn Township in 1788? And did he (or Leshar) have another tract adjoining it? The confusion here is typical of the continual changes of ownership and tract outlines which took place in the upper reaches of the Mahoning Valley. There are nevertheless certain Dreisbach tracts that can be located and studied thanks to the PA Archives land records. The records of Dreisbach acquisitions do not begin until a few years later, when three tracts are warranted on the same day.

Surveyed on 27 May 1789 as having 213¼ acres.

Returned on 27 January 1813 to Henry Fusselman (Musselman?).

This map, though said to have been surveyed on the same day, 27 May 1789, bears almost no resemblance to D33-119. Moreover, it must have been submitted to Surveyor General Andrew Porter much later, for he did not take office until 1809. The map seems to reflect the situation in 1813 when Henry Fusselman acquired the tract. By that time, George Dreisbach was dead.

VI.3. 21 November 1792, to George Dreisbach. Near the headwaters of the Mahoning Creek. Later called "Simon's Hall".

This relatively small rectangular tract was warranted on the same day as that of its neighbor upstream, George Shellhammer. Shellhammer had previously warranted several tracts near the Mahoning Creek headwaters. George's tract was situated south of Mahoning Creek and was apparently on the lower slope of the mountain ridge that defined the southern limit of the valley. This tract eventually became Simon's (presumed to be one of George's sons).

Northampton Co. Warrant Register "D" 247. Warrant of 21 November 1792 for 100 acres in Penn Township Survey map X-69

Surveyed on 3 December 1798 to George Dreisbach, containing 114 acres, 143 perches.

Returned on 6 September 1805 to Simon Driesback (a presumed son of George)

Patent P56-64 of 7 September 1805 to Simon Driesback. Named "Simon's Hall".

VI.4. 21 November 1792, to George Dreisbach. A large two-part tract on the mountainside. "Franconia".

This tract consists of two parts that barely meet at one corner. They are both farther up the mountainside than George's rectangular tract which does, however, adjoin the larger of the two parts of this tract. Having a northern exposure, they were probably unsuitable for agriculture and may have had value as sources of timber.

Northampton Co. Warrant Register "D" 246. Warrant of 21 November 1792 for 200 acres in Penn Township

Surveyed on 3 December 1798 to George Dreisbach, containing 230 acres, 140 perches.

Survey map C46-251.

Returned on 27 May 1807 to himself.

Patent P61-19 of 27 May 1807 to George Driesbach, and called "Franconia".

VI.5. 21 November 1792, to Simon Dreisbach. Later, "Amsterdam".

This sizeable tract adjoins the larger section of George's double tract and is also on the northern slope of the mountain. It apparently straddles the ridge of the mountain, as the survey map shows a stream originating on it and flowing southward down the other side of the mountain. It must have been timber, not agriculture that made this land desirable. For a skilled carpenter/joiner, this is logical. As the patents show, George and Simon exchanged tracts. Simon got George's rectangular tract in 1805 and named it "Simon's Hall", suggesting that Simon resided there, while George got Simon's ridge-top tract in 1804, which he called "Amsterdam". Thus George consolidated his mountainside tracts into one large, forested area.

Northampton Co. Warrant Register "D" 248. Warrant of 21 November 1792 for 200 acres in Penn Township

Surveyed on 4 December 1798 to Simon Dreisbach, containing 235¾ acres.

Survey map A39-54.

Returned on 13 July 1804 to Simon Driesback.

Patented on 13 July 1804, patent P54-361 to George Driesbach, and named "Amsterdam".

VI.6. 1798 or earlier: George takes over the large Gillom tract after George Schlecher.

Northampton Co. application #3561 of 16 September 1768 to William Gillom.

Surveyed 10 October 1768, shown to contain 324 acres.

Survey map A40-30.

Returned on 20 August 1783 to George Schlecher. Called "Gillamton".

Patented on 29 August 1783 to George Schlecher, patent P2-275.

Shown on George Dreisbach's survey map X-69 of 3 December 1798 as adjoining both George's and Simon's tracts. It is labelled, "Late William Gillom now George Dreisbach. It is also shown on Simon Dreisbach's survey map A39-54 of 4 December 1804 as adjoining Simon's tract, and labelled: "Late William Gillom now George Dreisbach".

We must conclude that in the early 1800's George Dreisbach had control of this very large and desirable tract which was traversed by Mahoning Cr. and several of its tributaries. It adjoined corners of both George's and Simon's tracts.

VI.7. 1806 or earlier: George takes over the 'missing corner' of the Gillom tract.

Survey map A63-169 for Richard Dodson, shows the tract situation on 10 August 1806. It labels the adjoining Colley tract as "Late Edward Colley Now George Dreisbach". This map also labels the tract next to Colley's as "Late William Gillon Now George Dreisbach".

Northampton Co. application #3559 of 10 September 1768 to John Calley/Colley for 300 acres.

Not surveyed until 6 March 1828, when it was shown to contain 100 acres, 56½ perches.

Survey map D58-57, showing the situation on 6 March 1828.

This tract seems to have been previously in the name of Peter Grimes/Gream, for when William Gillom made his application on 16 September 1768, he stated that his land adjoined Peter Gream. See Gillom's map A40-30.

Here too, as in the case of the Gillom tract, we must conclude that this smaller Colley tract was in Dreisbach hands in the year 1806. The result was the formation of one large, almost square tract (Gillom plus Colley), adjoining two of the Dreisbach tracts and very close to a third. The early years of the 19th century were thus the most expansive for George Dreisbach who was then in his seventies. Perhaps deed research can shed more light on these tracts known to be Dreisbach tracts only from inscriptions on survey maps.

The inland part of the Mahoning Valley was quite far west from Lehigh and upstream from the Lehigh River into which the Mahoning empties. This was in many ways back country. There were no bridges built in West Penn Township before 1820. All dwellings were of log or lath till a member of the Zehner family erected a 1½ storey brick house in 1807. Jacob Mantz, upon whose land much of Mantzville has sprung up, opened the first store there in 1807. He likewise began operating the first tavern in that year.

There was no church in the early years, except for Zion Stone Church, a union church, built in 1790 and located in the next valley to the south, along Lizard Creek. (Note this is not the Zion Stone Church in Kreidersville, PA which was the 'home church' for the Dreisbachs.)¹⁰ St. Peter's Church, which is just north of Mantzville, may have had a congregation that met privately in homes. Many third generation Dreisbachs are buried in the cemetery of St Peter's Church. In comparison to West Penn Township, Lehigh Township must have seemed populous and prosperous.

George does not appear in the 1810 census in West Penn, suggesting that George died prior to 1810. Simon, George's son, is the only Dreisbach in the 1820 census. The man and the woman listed there as being older than 45 must be Simon and his wife. There was also a young man between 16 and 26, and four girls under the age of

16. One assumes they were all living in "Simon's Hall" on the rectangular property Simon had received in exchange from his father.

A bit to the north, in Schuylkill Township in 1820, there is an Adam Dreisbach and his young wife and two daughters under ten. He must be a grandson of George. He is not a farmer, but is engaged in some kind of "manufacturing". We learn more about Adam and his family in the DDFA newsletter about Fraktur from July 2020¹¹.

Where the land of George Dreisbach can be found today:

- **His land in Indian Tract Manor:** From Allentown, go north on MacArthur Road (Route 145). Turn right onto route 329 to Northampton and cross the Lehigh River. Over the bridge turn left onto Main Street. In ½ mile the road forks, take the left fork onto Cherryville Road. Continue to the intersection in Cherryville, go straight across on Blue Mountain Road. Blue Mountain road will bend left but you go straight onto South Dogwood Road and for the next half mile, you are in George's tract inside Indian Tract Manor.
- **His land in Chestnuthill Township:** We can only suggest an approximate location for George's land. An 1860 map of Chestnuthill¹² shows a house with the name Treisbach in the SW corner of the township. Just up the road from this house was Salem Union church. Neither the house nor the church remain but there is still a large cemetery called Gilbert Cemetery or the Old Chestnuthill Church Cemetery. Looking for Dreisbach graves we find Conrad Dreisbach (1784-1863) and his wife Christina Serfass Dreisbach (1786-1872). Conrad was the son of John Dreisbach who remained behind in Chestnuthill when George moved to Penn Township, so we are in the area where George had his property. To view this land: From Allentown take Northeast Extension of the PA Turnpike, Route 476. Exit at Weissport East onto route 209 East towards Brodheads ville. Go about 16 miles and you will be at the crossroads that is Gilbert's. Turn left on Gilbert Road and the area immediately to your right should be the area owned by George.
- **His land in West Penn Township:** Go north from Allentown on the NE Extension of the PA Turnpike (route 476). Exit at Weissport East onto 209 West to Lehigh ton. Over the Lehigh River keep left and take route 443 west. In 9 miles you will be on George's land. To visit St. Peter's UCC Church with many Dreisbach and Mantz tombstones, go back the way you came. Route 443 will fork, take the left fork onto Mantzville Road. You are driving through George's property. Just as you come to the end of his property there is a small road going off to the left, St. Peter's Road. Follow this a short distance and St. Peter's Church and cemetery will be on your right.

¹ 1767 Lehigh Township Tax assessment, at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. in the Northampton Co. Papers, Provincial Assessments 1767 and 1768.

² Henry, M. S., *Manuscript History of Northampton County, Pennsylvania*, Original in the Northampton County Papers at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

³ Chidsey Jr A. D. Op. Cit. Map 8.

⁴ Chidsey Jr, A.D., Op. Cit. map number 8.

⁵ Richards, H. M. M., *The Pennsylvania Germans in the Revolutionary War 1775-1783*, Pub. 1978, p. 468

⁶ Marx, H. F. Editor, *Oaths of Allegiance of Northampton County, Pennsylvania, 1777-1784*, in the Marx Room of Easton Public Library, Easton PA. p.13.

⁷ Marx, H. F. Editor, *Oaths of Allegiance of Northampton County, Pennsylvania, 1777-1784 from Original Lists of John Arndt, Recorder of Deeds, 1777-1899.*, p. 13.

⁸ Northampton County Manuscripts Patents (#465), Book 4b. Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

⁹ *Pennsylvania Archives. Series 3, Vol. 1, pp 576-577 and 583.*

¹⁰ Munsell, W.W. Editor, *History of Schuylkill County, PA. with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers*, 1881, pp. 385-387.

¹¹ dreisbach-dresbach.org, DFA Newsletters, 2020. *Genealogy for Sale on eBay.*

¹² Ancestor Tracks, Monroe County Warrantee Maps, <https://ancestortracks.com/MonroeCo,1860/ChestnutHillTwp.jpg>

VII. JOHN (JOHANNES) DREISBACH - Born in Oberndorf, Wittgenstein. Baptized 6 February 1735 in Feudingen, Wittgenstein in what is now Nord-Rhein Westfalen, Germany. Died in Lehigh Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania 27 September 1796. Buried in the cemetery of Zion Stone Church in Kreidersville, PA. Married Elizabeth Waldman (b. 1742, d. 1821).

Not much is known about the personal life of John Dreisbach beyond the fact that he married Elizabeth Waltman on 14 Nov 1758 as recorded in *A History of the Tohickon Union Church*¹. It is assumed that John was in Perkasio, in Bucks County because the Dreisbach family fled there to escape the 1755 Indian attacks. According to various actions recorded in the Perkasio Tohickon Reformed Church records, some of the Dreisbachs remained in this area for many years. Clearly, they were living and farming here, renting land or working for landowners. We don't know when the Dreisbach families, and John and Elizabeth in particular, returned to Lehigh Township. A date stone of 1761 can be seen on a still existing spring house on land inside the Indian Tract that was eventually owned by John Dreisbach. This suggests John and Elizabeth were living in Lehigh Township by then. In 1761 John would have been about 26 and married. If he was living on land he was claiming, he should be found in the Lehigh Township tax lists starting in 1762.

However there is a problem. The Lehigh Township assessment and tax records for 1761 to 1770 have only ONE man named John Dreisbach, and this almost certainly refers to the previously discussed 'unknown' John. If John and Elizabeth returned to Lehigh Township in the early 1760's, as suggested by the datestone, they were not taxed. This is not unusual. Looking at all the tax lists in the 1760's we see that some people living inside the Indian Tract are taxed, others are not, and some are taxed in some years and not in others. Not until about 1766 was order created in listing people living inside the Indian Tract. The conclusion is that John, the youngest son of Simon Sr, was back and living in Lehigh Township, inside the Indian Tract, as early as 1761, but for unknown reasons he was not counted as a taxable inhabitant until 1770.

The 1770² and 1772³ tax lists have two men, John Dreisbach Sr and John Dreisbach Jr (implying age difference, not father-son relationship) listed as laborers, meaning they are living inside the Indian Tract and are of an age and stage to pay tax, but cannot be taxed because they do not have, and cannot get, legal title to their lands. This listing of John Jr and John Sr continues until 1775 when the Lehigh Township tax list adds a *third* John Dreisbach. This person is called a "gerber" (a tanner) and must have been the son of Simon Dreisbach Jr, who took over his father's property and tannery in Lehigh Township.

In 1780⁴ the tax list has the same three men named John, plus George Dreisbach, all residing in the Indian Tract. The three men named John appear on the tax and assessment lists until 1787, but in the 1788 Lehigh Township lists have only two men named John Dreisbach and John Dreisbach Jr. Presumably 'unknown' John, who was the most senior of the three men named John, has died.

John had some formal education because in 1781 and 1782, he was a constable in Lehigh Twp⁵ and in 1784 he was the tax collector for Lehigh Township.⁶ He seems to have died unexpectedly, and without a will, on 27 Sept. 1796 at age 61. To make matters confusing, his property was purchased from the estate by his son John Jr who died young (b. 1771, d. 1809 without issue). All three, John and Elizabeth and their son John Jr are buried in the cemetery of Zion Stone Church in Kreidersville, PA. The estate records for both John (b. 1735) and John Jr (b. 1771) are on file in the Northampton Co. Archives.⁷ As far as we know, John Dreisbach owned two adjacent tracts of land, one inside and one outside the Indian Tract. He obtained these at two different times. The larger property was inside the Indian Tract. He could not gain legal title to this until well after the American Revolution when it was acquired as an Indenture (a deed passed from one owner to a different owner) from John Penn in 1792. It contained 89 acres and 40 perches and was located just south of Jost's land. Indian Creek was the western border of his tract. This was where John must have been living and is where the spring house with the 1761 date is located. It was John's main piece of land, however in 1782 John applied for an adjoining piece of land, one that had been under Dreisbach control since 1747, a piece we call 'the triangle' because of its shape.

The "Triangle" tract gets a second warrant application: This 50 acre tract was shaped like a triangle with one right angle corner. It was nestled between the Indian Tract northern border and the properties of Jost and Adam.

Surrounded by Dreisbach properties, it may not have been necessary to spend money to warrant and survey this tract. We know that ‘unknown John’ put in an application for this “Triangle” in 1766, but he did not follow through to patent it. Simon Sr’s youngest son, John, decided to warrant this land for himself in 1785 having been living adjacent to it for many years.

VII.1. Application of 1 March 1782 – acted upon on 6 May 1785, Application of John Treisbach for 50 Acres in Lehigh Township

“John Treisbach, of the County of Northampton applies for fifty acres of land (two illegible words) adjoining the Indian Tract, Jost Treisbach’s land and land late of Adam Dreibach. In Lehi Township in said County. (Illegible) from 1 March 1782

We the subscribers two of the Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Northampton do Certify that the Land mentioned in the above application was improved about three years according to the best information we can obtain. Witness our Hands this 6 day of May 1785, Wm. McNair, Enoch Bear.”

This is an application for the tract we call the “Triangle” consisting of 50 acres adjoining the Indian Tract, Jost Treisbach’s land and land late of Adam Treisbach in Lehigh Township.⁸ (Adam has not died, but has moved to Easton, PA.)

VII.2. Warrant of 15 June 1785 for John Tricebach

Warrant for 150 acres. (This is the “Triangle”)

Surveyed 25 July 1785 (Survey map C234-133) containing 48 acres and 120 perches,

Patent by John Dreisbach on 12 April 1787, Patent book 10 page 77 in the Rolls Office, as “Syria”.

VII.3. Warrant of 15 June 1785, with Reap, Bears, Treisbach, Tater & Garnet

Pennsylvania, U.S. Land Warrants and Applications, 1733-1952, Ancestry.com

For 50 Acres, Image #1220 to #1229 of 1513 images. PA, US Land Warrants and Applications, 1733-1952, Northampton > 1785

A warrant application that is not a warrant application. The following application is mentioned because it appears John Dreisbach is applying for a warrant along with four other men, Reap, Bears, Tater (Dieter) and Garnet. It is a clerical matter. What the document says is that each of these men is applying on the same day for a warrant, but each of them is applying for a separate warrant. For unknown reasons, the warrant applications of John Dreisbach and Dieter (Tater) made on 1 March 1782 were bundled with applications made on 15 June 1785 by three other men. We believe that the apparent warrant of John Dreisbach, shown as part of a warrant made by Reap, Bear, and Garnet, is a clerical error. John never applied for any land other than the pieces he lived on.⁹

The indenture below is John’s most important transaction – it regularized his land inside the Indian Tract. John had been squatting on this property since returning from Tohickhon with his new wife and prior to that it appears to have been regarded by Jost as part of his property and under the control of the Dreisbachs since 1747. It took John 31 years to get ownership of the 89 acres and 40 perches he lived on.

VII.4. Indenture of 5 December 1792 from John Penn, the Younger, to John Dreisbach

48 3/4 A. patented 12 April 1787, in Patent Bk No. 10, p. 77 in the Rolls Office.

89A 40p, indenture from Penns 5 Dec. 1792, in Office for Recording of Deeds, Bk A vol 2 p. 259 onward.

Unlike the other patents we consider here, it is not found in the land records in the Pennsylvania Archives in Harrisburg but is in the Deed Book in the Northampton County Archives where it is record number A2-259, date of deed 5 December 1792, date of record 14 January 1793. Size 89 acres 140 perches. This land, as shown on map #8 in *Patented Tracts in the Forks of the Delaware*.¹⁰ It was situated directly south of the first tract John warranted, that which he called “Syria”, patented on 12 April 1787. We do not know why he chose the name “Syria”.

- **Where the land of John Dreisbach land can be found today:** From Allentown go north on 7th Street to Route #329. Turn right on #329 to Northampton. Turn left on Main Street. After a few blocks, take the left fork onto Cherryville Road. Follow this to a dead end and turn right on Blue Mountain Drive to Cherryville. In Cherryville turn right onto Route #248 (Lehigh Drive). Turn left at the next main intersection onto Walnut Drive. Go north on Walnut Drive. Walnut Drive will fork, at this point you are

inside land owned by John. If you turn right onto Murphy Road for the next ¼ mile you will pass through the southern part of his land. If, instead, you remain on Walnut Drive, for the next 0.4 miles you will be in the eastern part of John's land. To your right there will be a farm with an old stone house. This is the site of John's house which was probably incorporated into the house standing there, built by Reuben Leibenguth in 1834. On this same property is an icehouse, with the datestone of 1761.

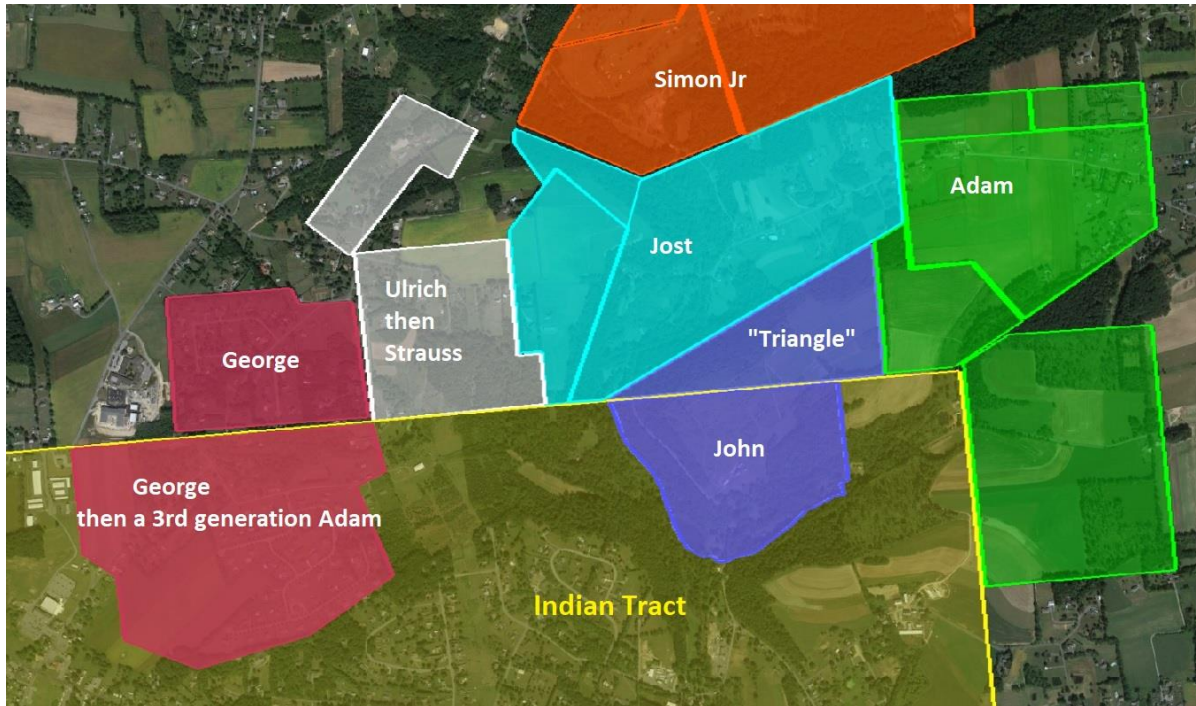


Fig. 11. John's tracts are in dark blue. His land inside the Indian Tract was part of the 'grand plan' whereby the Dreisbachs warranted land around the northeast corner and simultaneously occupied land inside the northeast corner in preparation to legally purchase it from the Penn Proprietors when this became possible. The tracts owned by Henry Ulrich had by this time been sold to Strauss. Google Earth view of Lehigh Township, Northampton County, PA.

¹ Hinke, W. J., *A History of the Tohickon Union Church, Bedminster Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania*. A publication of The Pennsylvania German Society, 1925.p. 214.

² Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Northampton County Collection #456, Northampton County Papers, Box 2, Volume 1770, "Treasurer's Report 1754-1770".

³ PA Archives Series 3 Vol. XIX, p. 58.

⁴ Fritts, P. *History of Northampton County, Pennsylvania, with illustrations descriptive of its scenery..* Pub. in Philadelphia and Reading, 1877.

⁵Hinke, Op. Cit. p. 214.

⁶ Northampton County Archives, Court Session June 1780 and September 1781, name John Dreisbach Sr as constable for Lehigh Township

⁷ Northampton County Archives, Orphan's Court, File 24, Folder 1597. John D.

⁸ Source Ancestry.com, Pennsylvania, U.S. Land Warrants and Applications, 1733-1952, Northampton > 1785, image #1225 of 1513 images.

⁹ Source photo from Ancestry.com, Pennsylvania, U.S. Land Warrants and Applications, 1733-1952, Northampton > 1785) Image #1227 of 1513 on Ancestry.com.

¹⁰ Chidsey Jr, A.D., Op. Cit. map number 8.

VIII. ANNA CATHARINA DREISBACH ULRICH – Born in Oberndorf, Wittgenstein. Baptized 4 May 1738 in Feudingén, Wittgenstein in what is now Nord-Rhein Westfalen, Germany. Died probably in Lehigh Township, Northampton County before 1771. Married Henrich Ulrich (b. abt. 1730, d. after 1800).

Anna Catharina Dreisbach was Christened on 4 May 1738 in Oberndorf, Wittgenstein, Germany. She was barely six years old when the family immigrated to Pennsylvania, leaving Wittgenstein on the 25th of May, 1743 and arriving in Philadelphia on September 19th. Their journey, including the trans-Atlantic portion on the ship, *Lydia*, took more than four months. Perhaps Simon Sr and his wife made better preparations than some, or had better traveling conditions, or were simply lucky - in any event the entire family arrived in Philadelphia, apparently in good health.

What Catharina did and where she lived in the period between landing in Philadelphia and 1755 is unknown. Her confirmation, which was an important milestone in life, probably took place in "Jost's Church" however all the records from this church were destroyed in the mid 1900's. What we do know is that on 29 October 1755 Anna Catharina married Henry Ulrich (b. before 1738, d. after 1800) in a ceremony performed by Egidius Hecker who was known to officiate at Jost's Church. Hecker's marriage records¹ give her name as "Catharina Dreisbach" suggesting that she did not use her 'church name' of Anna. His records were kept in the Tohickon Reformed church in Bedminster Township, Bucks County. Whether the couple were married in the Tohickon church or somewhere in Lehigh Township, Northampton County is not certain as Hecker was an itinerant minister who travelled far from his Tohickon base. The Indian attacks of 1755/56 had not yet started so the marriage probably took place in Lehigh Township.

As yet nothing has been learned about Henry Ulrich's background. The early records of Lehigh, Moore and Allen Townships contain no Ulrichs, so Henry must have come from elsewhere. There is no indication of how or where they met. Anna Catharina was about 17½ when she married. She was the youngest of the Dreisbach children, and most likely was living with her parents, Simon and 'Ketti'. At the time of the marriage the couple had no land of their own.

The earliest surviving Lehigh Township tax list of 1761² has a Jacob Ulrich and a Henry Ulrich, indicating both owned land, were over 21 and married. Possibly they were brothers. Two years later, in 1763³, only Henry Ulrich remained on the tax and assessment lists. The 1765 Lehigh Township tax list⁴ gives his surname as "Wollry", a variation we will see again in 1773.

Anna Catherina and Henry Ulrich had four daughters, Elizabeth, Catharine, Magdalene and Maria. Elizabeth was born 28 November 1757, baptized 8 February 1758⁵. Sponsors were John Dreisbach (youngest son of Simon Sr) and Elizabeth Waldman, whom he would marry ten months later. Catharine, born 12 June 1759, was baptized 3 August 1759⁶, and her sponsors were John Schlegel and wife, Catharine. Magdalene was born 22 February 1761. A record of her baptism has not been found in any church or ministerial records. The youngest daughter, Maria, was born 14 January 1763 and again no baptismal record has been found. Most probably both baptisms were recorded in "Jost's Church" whose records were destroyed.

Magdalene died 10 April 1764, age 3 years. Maria died two days after her older sister on 12 April 1764 at the age of a little over one year. Both were buried in the cemetery beside the old church at Jost's. Their tombstones were rescued in the 1920's from a farmer's field along with a number of other tombstones and were embedded in the monument that stands beside Zion Stone UCC Church in Kreidersville, PA.

There is no record of Catharina's death. If she died after Zion Stone Church Reformed Congregation was started in 1771, her death would have been recorded. It was in 1771 that Henry Ulrich sold his tract to blacksmith Henry Strauss. In all probability, Ulrich had become a widower. He had two surviving daughters who were then 14 and 12. One record suggests Catharine married Jacob Hamscher on 6 May 1795⁷. He is believed to have been the son of Barnardt Hampsher and Katherine Waltman. It is not known what became of Elizabeth. As for Henry, a man

by the name of Henry Wollrich, served in the 4th Pennsylvania Regiment in 1777⁸. Whether this is our Henry Ulrich or not is for future researchers to determine but it very possible that he served in the Revolutionary War. At that time he would have been in his mid-forties, a widower and with no young children. He turns up in the 1785 tax records for Hamilton Township which is on the north side of Blue Mountain (the northern boundary of Lehigh Township). There he is listed as "Woolrich, Henry", paying a fairly low tax for his 75 acres, and having neither horses nor cattle. The next year he appears as "Wollery, Henry" and pays the same tax on 25 acres. He is still there, north of Blue Mountain, appearing in the 1800 census as Henry Ulrich, male, age category: above 45, living alone.

History behind the Ulrich tracts: Henry Ulrich was not the first to lay claim to this tract. In 1758 one of the Dieters of Northampton County, John (the elder) lived here but never held legal title to this land. After he died, an inventory of his goods was made by George and Adam "Trashpack"⁹ in February 1759, and a later version was dated 1 September 1759, showing that in the meantime a "plantation", now referred to as an "improvement", had been sold by the Executor, John Dieter (the eldest son) to Henry Ulrich for £30. This is the tract in question here. It appears that a better knowledge of the various Dieters' land histories could shed useful light on the Dreisbachs and their tracts. Thus, given that the Dieters had preceded the Dreisbachs in Lehigh and Moore Townships, and that they were active in the "Dreisbach" church, it is not surprising to find a Dieter here on the land on which, or near which, the first church, known as "Jost's Church" and its burial ground were located.

Catharina and Henry were married in 1755 and most certainly fled south early in 1756 along with most of the other Dreisbach families who lived in Lehigh Township. Since their two oldest daughters were baptized in the Tohickon church, it is probable that the Ulrichs lived near at least some of the Dreisbachs. Henry Ulrich warranted his land in 1759. We assume that the couple had returned to Lehigh Township that spring. The threat of Indian attacks had decreased and the need to have their own land may have taken precedence.

VIII.1. The 12 April 1759 warrant to "Henry Ulrich".

Two pieces of land next to Jost Dreisbach.

Northampton County Warrant Register "U" 11.

Warrant of 12 April 1759 for 100 acres.

Surveyed on 4 April 1759, according to the Warrant Register. (Normally the survey should follow after the date of the warrant.) The tract was actually two pieces of land, and they were found to contain, respectively, 47 acres, 58 perches and 26 acres, 100 perches. Survey map A4-252.

Returned on 1 May 1771 to Henry Strauss, 100 acres, 58 perches.

Patented to Henry Strauss on 19 November 1771, patent AA11-600. The larger, squarish tract is called "The Home Tract" and the upper, angled free-standing tract is called "The Range".

The acreage in the 1759 warrant to Henry Ulrich, husband of Catharine Dreisbach, is in two pieces, the larger piece called 'The Home Tract' and the smaller piece called 'The Range'. The larger tract, like the lands of Jost to the east, sits just outside the Indian Tract northern border. At the time of the 1759 survey, the land on both sides of Ulrich's tract was labelled as vacant, including that which would later be spoken for by Jost Dreisbach. Doubtless Jost had plans for this strip of land, he intended to make it his, and one suspects he discouraged all who might want to warrant it. In 1766 Jost finally made an application for this land, but did not have it surveyed until 1771. The Dreisbach church at Jost's and its burial ground were situated at the common border of Ulrich's and Jost's lands. It was in the congregation's interest to have the tracts where the church was located in reliable hands.

Ulrich sold to Strauss in 1771. In 1771 Ulrich sold both tracts to Henry Strauss who took the warranting procedure to completion and patented the two tracts becoming the first legal owner of this land although definitely not the first person to live on it. Strauss was a blacksmith. In 1774, three years after purchasing 'The Home Tract' and 'The Range' from Henry Ulrich, Strauss warranted the land lying between them, creating a large, unified piece of land. By the mid-1780's this land was in the hands of a George Brown. However in 1789 the tract to the west of 'The Home Tract', previously in the name of one Josiah Harper via an application in 1766, was sold to Adam Dreisbach, son of Jost, thus becoming the most westerly of the Dreisbach lands lying along the top of the Indian Tract.

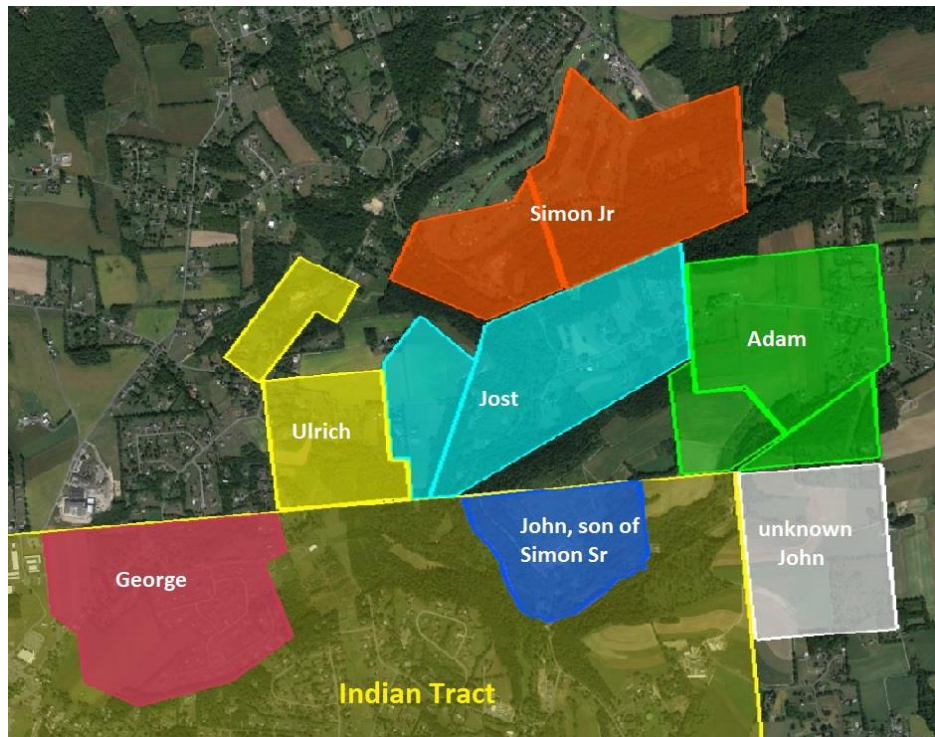


Fig. 12. Dreisbach tracts as they appeared about 1760, at the time Catharina and Henry Ulrich settled on their land. With the exception of the triangular space above John, and the small area above Jost, the surrounding lands were claimed by somebody else although Simon Jr was in the process of greatly enlarging his holdings.

- **How to find the land of Henry Ulrich and Anna Catharina today:** Starting at the Howersville bridge, follow Cedar Drive (the old road from Easton to the Lehigh Gap) westward, up the hill. At the top of the hill you will be entering "The Home Tract", which Cedar Drive traverses at a slight diagonal. Turning right on Dogwood Drive, you will have left "The Home Tract" and will be following along "The Range" until the road begins to descend toward Indian Creek.

¹ Hinke, W. J. *A History of the Tohickon Union Church, Bedminster Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania*. Pub. by The Pennsylvania German Society, 1925. p. 212.
² Historical Society of Philadelphia, Northampton County Collection #456, Northampton County duplicate for a county tax of 1761.
³ Historical Society of Philadelphia, Northampton County Collection #456, Northampton County duplicate for a county tax of 1763.
⁴ Historical Society of Philadelphia, Northampton County Collection #456, Northampton County duplicate for a county tax of 1765.
⁵ Hinke, W. J. Op. Cit. p. 89
⁶ Hinke, W. J. Op. Cit. p. 101.
⁷ Ancestry.com, Pennsylvania, U.S. Marriage Records, Philadelphia>Swede's Church, Philadelphia, PA.
⁸ Ancestry.com, National Archives and Records Administration, Henry Wollrich, U.S., Compiled Revolutionary War Military Service Records, 1775-1783, Military date 4 May 1777, Fourth Regiment, Pennsylvania, USA. 711b, Wollrich Henry, Card # 39190432. Film frame 2370 of 2413 frames.
⁹ Register of Wills, Northampton County Courthouse, Will of John Deter, #173, 18th December, 1758.

Tracts already spoken for when the Dreisbachs staked out their lands.

Although not directly relevant to the tracts of the Dreisbach family, it is useful to look at how many tracts had already been settled or claimed at the time the Dreisbachs warranted their lands in 1747. In many respects the area of Northampton County called 'The Forks' was a wilderness but there were settlers and squatters as well as absentee owners. The following was researched and compiled by Ardis Dreisbach Grosjean. We felt it was important to have an idea of overall settlement. The fact that there were this many tracts already claimed makes it more incredible that the Dreisbachs somehow knew of an area that was still open and available to warrant. That this area also included a year round stream capable of supporting a mill, is even more surprising. Here then is the information Ardis discovered about what settlement and claims in the area known as "The Forks" at the time Jost and Adam Dreisbach made their first warrants in 1748.

We know there were four kinds of early land ownership in the northwestern area of Northampton County:

1. The Penn Proprietaries: Penn family were the original "owners" of south-eastern Pennsylvania beginning with William Penn (1644-1718) and then delving to his heirs. It was their privilege to sell or award land as they saw fit. The Penn Proprietors retained title until a person had paid the warrant fee for a tract and had received a warrant to have that tract surveyed. Tracts whose warrantees had not fulfilled their financial obligations could be reclaimed by the Proprietors.

2. Investment tracts: Certain of the earliest tracts that were sold or awarded by the Penn proprietors in the area near the later Dreisbach settlements lay along the Lehigh River on its eastern side. They were often huge in extent and were viewed as an investment, their owners, were speculators living in Philadelphia or in Great Britain.

3. Genuine settlers: Other tracts, generally smaller, were warranted by private persons who were already settled there or intended to do so. The Ulster Scots (sometimes called the Scotch-Irish) settled in a band stretching from what is now Catasauqua to Bath. The earliest German immigrants came slightly later and settled to the north and west of the Scots.

4. The Indian Tract: This was a large restricted area of 6500 acres to the north and west of the tracts in groups 2. and 3. It was set aside in 1733 by the Proprietaries, ostensibly for the use of displaced Indians who, however, never settled there. This large tract nevertheless remained officially closed to settlement, though it soon had many squatters. Patenting of land here began in the 1780's, but land in the tract as a whole did not become available until the 1790's, and in some cases ownership did not become legally established until the first decades of the 19th century.

The Pennsylvania Archives survey maps: These survey maps are the most useful information about early tracts that we have. Survey maps were based on sketches done in the field by surveyors. They can be found online at the <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx> and then follow the links to 'archives', then to 'land records' and then to 'surveys'.

In our records, we begin with the date of the warrant, and the survey map number. The first survey map discussed below has the number C155-121. The C155 tells us the survey is in book C, volume 155, and page 121 is where one can find the copied survey map, i.e. the copy made from the original map of the drawn by the colony's or state's appointed surveyor. This survey map was based on work in the field and was made after the warrant was issued – occasionally several generations later, when a survey had to be made in order for a piece of land to be sold and patented to the new owner. Each survey has:

Layout of the map page: The upper part of the page contains an outline drawing reproducing the original survey drawing. There is usually no indication of natural features or roads, but streams and bodies of water are included. On each of the tract's edges, the name of the person owning (or at least occupying) the adjacent tract is written or, if unoccupied it says, "Vacant Land". This information is most useful when attempting to construct an integrated tracts map.

Hand-written text, copied from or based on that of the surveyor. Under the map is a more or less standardized text giving the name of the warrantee, the dates of the warrant and of the survey map, the geographical location of the tract and the number of acres and perches it contains. The text is followed by the name of the surveyor.

Standardized testimonial text. At the bottom of the page is a standard text stating that the above drawing is a copy of the original, with the date of the copy (usually made in the decades around 1900) and the signature of Pennsylvania's Secretary of Internal Affairs.

A selection of early tracts from group 2 – a progression of 1730's tracts from south to north:

1731. C155-121. Warrant to John Page of Austin Fryers (sic) London of 19 October 1731, on the east side of the Lehigh River (here called the West Branch of the Delaware). Surveyed by Nicholas Scull on 10 October 1736; containing 2723 (!!) acres.

1735. C155-66. This is the tract immediately to the north of the above. Surveyed "to the use of the Proprietaries" on 20 May 1735; shown to contain 1500 acres. Warranted to John Page on 9 September 1735.

1733. D89-232. Warrant of 31 December 1733 to Wm. & Margaret Lowther and surveyed in their "right" on 7 June 1735 to John Simpson of Tower Hill London. Contains 1800 acres, also lies along the river, with its southern part adjoining the previous tract. This is the only map we have seen which depicts a group of Indian teepees and bears the words "Indian Cabbins". (See the next map for further information on Indians.)

1733. D80-237. This is the Indian Tract, a 6,500 acre area intended by the Penns to house displaced Indians. The warrant was dated 31 December 1733 and the tract was surveyed on 24 June 1735. The Indians however never settled here, partly because they were displaced in 1737 by the Walking Purchase with its unfair tactics employed to deprive them of their homelands and hunting grounds.

There was a second progression of inland early tracts situated next to the tracts discussed above. See map A9-170, 1425 acres warranted to a Thomas Turner in 1733, but soon taken over by William Allen of Philadelphia who was in the process of accumulating huge tracts on both sides of the Lehigh River. See also map D85-246, a 750-acre tract along the eastern side of the Indian Tract, for which a warrant was granted to Theophila Partridge in 1737. This, along with the Indian Tract itself, constituted unavailable areas which the Dreisbachs had to take into consideration when they staked out their tracts nearby. (Note: the drawing in D85-246 has been inserted upside-down and in reverse, and it needs to be rotated 180 degrees.)

**Selection of early tracts from group 3. German settlers (and a speculator)
acquire tracts along the Hockendauqua Creek:**

Nearly all the tracts just mentioned were traversed by the Hockendauqua Creek, a tributary of the Lehigh River. The Hockendauqua itself had a tributary, and the two arms joined near the southern edge of the Indian Tract. This tributary, later known as Indian Creek, traversed the whole of the Indian Tract from north to south. For a few years, the middle part of this stream became an almost private Dreisbach domain. Having a stream on one's property was a definite advantage, so settlers made their way up the Hockendauqua, following it through the large Theophila Partridge tract (D85-246) and taking land immediately to the east.

1739. C39-297. Christian Doll (Tholl) must have come to this area at the latest in early 1739 and possibly earlier. By 18 September 1739 he was in Philadelphia getting a warrant on 150 acres that would entitle him to have the land surveyed. He had laid out an almost perfect square in this untouched terrain and had measured it surprisingly accurately, for the survey carried out on 14 October 1776 showed the tract to contain just a little more – 153 acres and 25 perches.

1740. C185-181. Doll, who seems to have had the financial means to obtain the above relatively large warrant, nevertheless did not get the whole of the Hockendauqua's course at this place. The stream, which entered Doll's land from the north, flowed straight down and left his tract at the bottom, then formed a bend and re-entered the Doll tract to leave it almost immediately and head west through the Theophila Partridge tract on its way to the Lehigh River. It is possible that a Leonard Smith had already staked out this land to the south of Doll, though he did not obtain his warrant until the year after Doll, on 4 July 1740.

1748. C234-9. Ten years after his first warrant, Christian Doll obtained an adjoining warrant to the north on 20 July 1748. This is a narrow tract of 35 acres, 115 perches, enclosing the Hockendauqua Creek. These two tracts were later patented by members of the Erb family, who were related to the Dreisbachs through marriage.

1735. A45-245, A45-268 (B. Furley) and C155-263 (Wm. Peck/Beck). An interesting combination of early tracts is found along the Hockendauqua Creek. At the end of 1735, speculator Benjohn Furley (Benjamin Furly) warranted a colossal 5000 acres consisting of 17 tracts, large and small, in various places, registered in the Philadelphia County warrants under "F" no. 24. Two of these tracts were on the Hockendauqua and were 131 and 68 acres, respectively. Furley had begun accumulating large tracts in what was then Philadelphia County as early as the mid-1680's and was still at it on a grand scale in 1735. When the two tracts under consideration were surveyed in 1744, we see on the maps that not only was there "Vacant Land", adjoining his tracts, but also land of a "Wm. Peck". Peck, or more correctly Beck, had previously warranted, on 11 June 1742, a tract of 100 acres with a parallelogram form where, judging by the watercourses shown on the Furley tracts, an arm of the Hockendauqua Creek must have traversed the top of his land. The Furley family seems to have resided in Philadelphia. Beck, however, was one of the early German settlers and remained in this area. (Indeed, in January 1777 a William Beck Sr. and his sons were reprimanded for having laid hands on Col. Jost Dreisbach in a dispute over a military drum.)

We see those various stretches along the Hockendauqua Creek, mainly in what is today Moore Township, were already warranted, or at least staked out by the mid-1740's. The Dreisbach family, having arrived in Philadelphia in September 1743, would have been searching for land that would accommodate the parents and two grown sons, and provide reasonable land prospects for the three younger sons. For those willing to go into the wilderness, there was another stream to investigate, the northern branch of the Hockendauqua that came to be known as Indian Creek. There was also the land at the upper limits of the Forks of the Delaware, unclaimed land that lay on both sides of the Lehigh River.

A band of early tracts above the Indian Tract: More German settlers and an occasional speculator:

West bank of the Lehigh River. Why did the Dreisbachs not consider the west side of the Lehigh River, in what is now Lehigh County? There was a Reformed congregation in Egypt, Whitehall Twp., founded in 1734. This area, just across the Lehigh from the mouth of the Hockendauqua, had many warrantees before the Dreisbachs had even disembarked. Land further the north, along the western bank of the Lehigh, was quickly taken, and farthest north, near Blue Mountain and Lehigh Gap, a German miller warranted in 1737 and 1738 tracts of 300 and 200 acres. The smaller tract was well watered by two confluent arms of Trout Creek, and here George Kern built his grist mill and sawmill, now swallowed up by the town of Slatington. Kern, like Simon Dreisbach, had sons to think of, and survey map C102-3 shows the two tracts in 1785 when they were carved into smaller portions for Kern's sons. Thus, much land to the south and to the east and to the west of the Indian Tract was already spoken for by numerous warrantees and a few speculators, however there still remained the land to the north of the Indian Tract. It extended up to the steep slope of Blue Mountain and lay between the Lehigh River to the west and the Hockendauqua's watershed area to the east. This area had streams and some as yet free land. This helps to explain why the Dreisbachs went here, just north of the Indian Tract.

East Bank of the Lehigh River: It was clear from early on that the Lehigh Gap would be an important passageway from southern to northern Pennsylvania. However steep and inhospitable its riverside tracts may have been, they were soon spoken for.

1737. A86-43. Ebenezer Petty was first on the scene. He started at the upper edge of the Indian Tract and warranted two riverside tracts in 1737 that had a total area of 313 acres. He had them surveyed in 1739, and then he vacated them. However another family member, Joseph Petty, took over the northern tract in 1746, and a William Best took the lower one in 1748. (Note: This William Best, whose heirs continued to live in the area, was dead by 1766, and was thus not identical with the one who assaulted Col. Jost Dreisbach.) As for Joseph 'Betty', in 1751 he warranted a second, an inland tract next to his riverside piece.

1744. A86-51. A little farther upstream, in 1744, George Boone, possibly an uncle of the famous Daniel Boone, added to the many large tracts he was acquiring in northern Northampton Count by warranting a tract of 200 riverside acres not far from the Lehigh Gap. This tract appears to have soon left his hands.

For a partial view see the Connected Draft Map #19 at:

http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17_522ConnectedDraftAndOtherMaps/r017_522_ConnectedDraftAndOtherNorthamptonCo.htm#NorthamptonCo

Inland warrants situated above the Indian Tract:

There was, more or less, unclaimed land to be had above the Indian tract, though in some cases very determined squatters might 'discourage' land-seekers from warranting the land they were occupying.

1740. C41-191. This tract of 110 acres is a bit of a mystery. It was not on the edge of the Indian Tract, but a little more to the north. Warranted as early as 1740, some other inland tracts nearby would be warranted by speculator George Boone a few years later. As the years passed, these and neighboring tracts formed a continually changing pattern of ownership. There is perhaps an explanation for the warranting of an inland tract so early. Later maps show that a road going to the Lehigh Gap went along the southern edge of this tract. Since early roads generally followed Indian paths, then this tract could have had some (relative) ease of access. This early track or road may well be part of the roads the Moravians developed for travel between their communities of Bethlehem and Nazareth and their mission at Gnadenhuetten. It was, moreover, the same one which passed through several of the lands eventually warranted by Dreisbachs, starting in 1747. But let us now follow the progression of border tracts as they are aligned heading inland toward the area eventually warranted by the Dreisbach family.

1765. C10-37. Moving eastward from the 1737 Ebenezer Petty tract we find an irregularly shaped tract of almost 73 acres that straddles the point where the Indian Tract's border bends down toward the south-west. The first record of this tract is the application (a special type of warrant available only in the 1760's, intended to facilitate the warranting process) made by Jacob Dorn (Dorney?) in 1765. As there is a stream running through the middle of the property, we can assume that one or more occupants preceded Dorne on this land.

1755. D13-10. This is a tract of 84 acres well watered by what was later called Bertsch Creek. It was warranted by one Andrew Shitterley in 1755. When a survey map was finally made in 1813, the surveyor made use of the "old lines" of its early neighbors. In the meantime, according to the maps, the tract had passed through several hands.

Ca. 1744-1750. Boone's survey map not identified. George Boone 's numerous warrants are recorded from early 1734 to ca. 1750 and are geographically widespread. We have not found the survey map for this tract along the upper edge of the Indian Tract, but George Boone does appear on several survey maps in this area, where he is named as having a neighboring tract. This Boone tract was passed to a number of occupants before coming into the hands of the Anthony family, which was a Lutheran family of millers connected with the early Indianland Church. As such, they formed a more westerly and somewhat later counterpart to the Dreisbachs, a Reformed family centered around miller Jost Dreisbach and his Dreisbach Church. Moving further eastward from the Anthony's and the land of the Indianland Church, which perches on the Indian Tract border, we gradually near the tracts that were selected and settled by Dreisbachs.

1751. A70-224. This is another piece of land which was not formally surveyed until much later, in this case 1814. The original warrant was for 25 acres, taken by a Christian Shupper. By the time of the 1814 map it had grown to more than 61 acres, and ownership was not finalized until 1825 (to Jacob Kuntz). This is surprising, as the south-west border of this tract was formed by the Indianland Church's property. Thus it was not exactly an isolated tract. Indeed, according to survey map C108-201 (inserted upside-down on the page) this tract was at one time occupied by William Dieter, a man closely associated with Dreisbach history whom we shall meet again.

1765. Application #1236; no survey map. This is the next tract going east, and Michael Reib (also Reep/Reeb) put in an application of 100 acres for this tract on 9 November 1765. Though we have found no survey map for this application, Michael Reeb is named on map A70-224 and on C44-107.

1766. Application #1406, map C44-107. In our tracing of settlements from west to east, we are now approaching the Dreisbach settlements. This tract of a little more than 70 acres went first to Josiah Harper on Application #1406 of 16 April 1766. In 1789 it was purchased by Adam Dreisbach, son of Jost, who gave it the name "Adamsburg". From here on there are six more tracts warranted by members of the Dreisbach family, along of them lying along the edge of the Indian Tract.

Having now followed a series of tracts from the Lehigh River to the area where the Dreisbach tracts begin, what can be said relevant to the Dreisbachs' choice of lands? Even though a number of the known warrants do not predate the Dreisbach warrants of 1747 and 1749, we must keep in mind the possible presence of squatters and also the incomplete and at times complicated histories of some of these tracts.