

## Chapter VI: Zin(c)k-Funkhouser

Last Revised: December 3, 2013

There is considerable evidence to show that our Jacob Zinck born in Virginia in 1756 was the son of a Zinck male who emigrated from Europe to America during the 18th century.<sup>1</sup>

This man was **GOTTLIEB ZINCK**, and his wife was **BARBARA {FUNKHOUSER} ZINCK**. They were married in Frederick County, Virginia, about 1752.<sup>2</sup>

Barbara was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, about 1734. She was probably the daughter of **JACOB FUNKHOUSER**, and a woman named **VERENA**, whose family name is not known to us. Jacob Funkhouser was born in Germany, Switzerland, or Alsace sometime around 1700 to 1706 and according to family tradition died in 1771 at the family residence on Tumbling Run in what was then Frederick (now Shenandoah) County, Virginia. It is possible he was a miller, since a year after his death another man petitioned to build a “new” mill on Funk’s Mill Creek (the original name of Tumbling Run) – perhaps to replace the one that Jacob Funkhouser had run.<sup>3</sup> Verena<sup>4</sup> was born in

---

<sup>1</sup> Although Gottlieb Zinck is by far the best candidate for the man who was our Jacob’s father, there were other Zincks in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Virginia at this time. Unfortunately, many of the Zinck families used the names Gottlieb and Jacob frequently. Some of the better other candidates would be a Jacob Zinck who left the Palatinate in 1754 along with other – presumably related – Zincks and settled in Rowan County, North Carolina. (It should be borne in mind that our Rings once lived there. We will encounter this man in a different context in a later chapter.) In addition, the Andreas, Jacob, Christophel, and Christian Zinck who arrived in 1754 cannot be overlooked. There were also Zincks who lived in Pennsylvania and who may or may not have been related to the Zinck clan later found in the Shenandoah Valley. One of them, a Jacob Sink in Pasyunk Township, left a will in 1803 that mentions a son named Jacob. Two Jacob Zincks were born in Philadelphia, one in 1759 and the other in 1771, and either could have been the father of our Jacob Zinck, Sr. Even the Zinck family histories sometimes get confused on the relationships (or lack thereof) among all these Zincks.

<sup>2</sup> Some Zinck researchers do not accept Barbara as the wife of Gottlieb Zinck; instead, they believe that his wife was named Catherine. After considering the evidence, I have opted for Barbara.

<sup>3</sup> As we have seen, Gottlieb Zinck was among those who petitioned for a road along Tumbling Run that would make the mill accessible. This road was probably the one called Battlefield Road today.

Germany about 1706, and she died sometime after 1767 in Frederick (now Shenandoah) County, Virginia. Both of them are presumably buried in a now-abandoned family graveyard near their house on Tumbling Run.<sup>5</sup>

Jacob Funkhouser arrived in Philadelphia (then the most common port of entry for immigrants, especially those from the Rhineland), during the early 1720s. By 1724 and 1725 he is listed as an unmarried adult freeman named Bankhouser and Funkhowser on tax lists in Conestoga Township of Chester (later Lancaster) County, Pennsylvania – an area near the town of Lancaster where there were many Swiss and German immigrants. Jacob and Verena evidently were married in Lancaster County about 1730 to 1732 and may have migrated south to Virginia not long afterwards: it was at this point the Shenandoah Valley was beginning to open for settlement, and the Swiss and Germans who had come into Pennsylvania were attracted to the prospect of unclaimed land there.<sup>6</sup>

We know that Jacob and Verena were in the Shenandoah Valley by mid-1736, when he witnessed a note of indebtedness. On July 23 in the next year, he was one of fifty-one

---

<sup>4</sup> This is a form of the common Swiss and German female name Veronica. It was often shortened to Froney or Franey. One Funkhouser researcher has advanced the interesting theory that she, too, was a Funkhouser by birth: the Verena Funkhouser born on September 25, 1705, to Peter Funkhouser (born on November 7, 1673) and Anna {Bieri} Funkhouser (born in 1677). He argues that this Verena, born about the right time, is the only one of their children who is not otherwise accounted for – and so may have come to America. It appears, though, that our Jacob Funkhouser and his wife Verena were married in America, which raises serious doubts about this theory. Because our Jacob Funkhouser named no daughter Verena, as one would expect him to have done if Verena had been the mother of his children, one researcher has wondered if Verena was Jacob's later second wife and not the mother of his children.

<sup>5</sup> A fuller description of the location can be found in a later footnote, but according to a Funkhouser researcher who grew up within sight of the property, the burial ground once could be found on the crest of a hill on the north side of the run, a few hundred yards east of the home. See slides 09180-89, taken in 1998.

<sup>6</sup> See Appendix IV for a discussion of migration into the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

men who signed a petition protesting being required to contribute their labor to the building of a road through Chester Gap that, they objected, would not benefit them. Many of the signers were residents of the Opequon Creek area in western Frederick County and the Cedar Creek area near Staufferstown (now Strasburg), Virginia. Soon there was a sizeable Funkhouser colony along Tumbling Run – then still called Funk’s Mill Creek – near Little North Mountain west of the town of what is today Strasburg. Within this colony were not only Jacob and his offspring but the families of two other Funkhousers, John and Christian, who had apparently come to Virginia from the same area in Pennsylvania as Jacob but who, DNA testing has revealed, were probably not his brothers or cousins, though the three clearly considered one another kin of some sort. How the other two men were related to Jacob is not yet clear, but the DNA evidence also seems to indicate that all three of these Virginia Funkhousers ultimately stemmed from a much larger Funkhouser (and Fankhauser/Frankhouser) family in Switzerland. It is from these three Funkhousers in Virginia so many of the American Funkhousers derive. Many of the descendants of these men still live in the Shenandoah Valley yet today.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> Johannes Funkhouser arrived aboard the ship *Mortonhouse* in 1728 and lived about a mile further up Tumbling Run from where Jacob settled. Christian Funkhouser arrived in the Tumbling Run area later than both Johannes and Jacob, probably about 1734. He then lived further south in Shenandoah County before moving to the Yadkin Valley of North Carolina and then to the Holston Valley of Virginia. It is primarily from Johannes and Jacob that the numerous Funkhousers of today’s Shenandoah County descend. Johannes Funkhouser is listed among those who voted for George Washington for the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1758, and Jacob Funkhouser was among voters for Washington three years later.

Jacob Funkhouser's property, 260 acres a short distance west of today's community of Fisher's Hill, was near a fork in the run where a good spring was found.<sup>8</sup> He and the other settlers were technically squatting, since all of this land (more than five million acres between the Potomac River and the Rappahannock River) was part of a 1649 land grant from King Charles II that had by the 1730s descended to Thomas, Lord Fairfax. Fairfax had been compelled to defend his grant against numerous and lengthy legal challenges, which he had overcome by 1745. He subsequently settled in Virginia, in 1747, but was just beginning to survey and sell portions of his vast property – known as “the Northern Neck of Virginia” – by 1749.<sup>9</sup>

The process that Lord Fairfax used in settling people on his lands is worth describing, since several persons in our Virginia families used it in obtaining property from him. Once an individual had found available land, he applied to Fairfax's agent in White Post, Virginia, for a patent and paid a fee. The agent issued a warrant, which enabled the purchaser to engage a surveyor to survey and mark the property. A survey and plat with

---

<sup>8</sup> Jacob Funkhouser's log cabin was located on what is now Route 601, Battlefield Road. The existing house was built in 1766 by Jacob's son, also named Jacob, who was a carpenter. The original, quite smaller, house of the senior Jacob Funkhouser stood at the edge of the garden, where the road curves around the present house and its barn. It was demolished in about 1920. See the USGS map for Toms Brook/Virginia and slides 09180-89, 09266, and 09273-74, all taken in 1998.

<sup>9</sup> As Virginia added new counties, this area was located in several different counties during a short time. Shenandoah County was formed from Frederick County in 1772 but bore the name Dunmore County until 1778, when patriots drove out the unpopular British Governor Dunmore and the county was renamed. Frederick County itself had been created from 1738 to 1743, mostly out of Orange County and partly out of Augusta County. Orange County had been formed a few years earlier from Spotsylvania County. The section of the present Shenandoah County that lies between Toms Brook and New Market, and where we once lived, has been part of all five counties: Spotsylvania County, Orange County, Augusta County, Frederick County, and now Shenandoah County.

the location, description, and any neighbors was the next step. Once all this documentation was submitted to Fairfax's agent, and if there were no complications (a competing claim, for instance), the grant could be issued. The purchaser received title in fee simple for an annual payment to Fairfax (to be made on September 29, St. Michaelmas Day) of about one shilling per fifty acres. Thus the arrangement was a kind of long-term lease, either for twenty-one years or for "three lives" – those of the husband, the wife, and the youngest son of this couple. The process of securing a Fairfax grant took time, sometimes years, to complete, during which the original warrant often changed hands.

Soon after Lord Fairfax did open his land, in 1748, Jacob Funkhouser sought title to the portion he had cleared and planted by applying to Fairfax for a warrant on September 4, 1750. It did take some time – until January 26, 1761 – until Jacob made full payment to Fairfax and received title to the land. In the meantime, during the 1750s, there were numerous Indian attacks in what would later become Shenandoah County. These were part of the conflict known in America as the French and Indian War, which we will discuss in detail in another chapter. Although there were incidents at Mill Creek, at Stony Creek, and at Cedar Creek (the latter being closest to the Funkhouser property), there is no evidence that the Funkhousers were affected; neither did they flee, as so many frontier settlers did when the Indians raided isolated farms and communities. Jacob Funkhouser was a lay leader (*Vorsteher*, in German) in the Reformed Church, which had

adherents but no formal congregation in the Tumbling Run area. Such a leader would preside over pastorless meetings at which members would pray, read from the Bible, sing hymns, and enjoy one another's company. Jacob and Verena transferred their 260 acres on Tumbling Run to their son, also named Jacob, on March 2, 1767, not long before the elder Jacob Funkhouser died.

On September 22, 1864, the Funkhouser farm and adjacent properties would become the scene of an important Civil War battle known as the Battle of Fisher's Hill, which involved a total of 40,000 soldiers. The Confederate commander, General Jubal A. Early, had just raided into Maryland and even into the District of Columbia (attacking from the north, along what is now Georgia Avenue) before being driven back into the Shenandoah Valley. Defeated at Winchester, Virginia, on September 19, Early established a defensive position at Fisher's Hill. The Confederate line formed along the southern bank of Tumbling Run, which runs from the northwest to the southeast here. The ground there was steep and partially wooded, as it is today.

Union Generals Philip H. Sheridan and George Crook<sup>10</sup> decided to forego a direct uphill assault on the Confederate position. Instead, Crook's forces stole westward (to their right) across the enemy front and through the woods on Little North Mountain, where they turned southeast and then fell on the Confederate flank. Crook's attack was a total

---

<sup>10</sup> General Crook was possibly distantly related to the Crooks family described in another chapter, but I have not explored that topic.

surprise, and the main Union forces soon charged south across Tumbling Run and completed the victory. Fifty-two Union soldiers were killed; the Confederate side lost more than 1,200 men in all, plus almost as many taken prisoner. Following the even more decisive Battle of Cedar Creek (just west of Strasburg) a month later, Sheridan launched his famous (or infamous, from the Confederate point of view) scorched-earth campaign to punish the Shenandoah Valley and to remove it as a source of food and supplies for the Confederacy; the Funkhouser barn and mill were likely burned as part of this campaign, which effectively ended the Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley. Today some of the Funkhouser property lies within the Fisher's Hill Battlefield park, which is now preserved – and prized – because its current condition is almost unaltered from what it was in 1864.

Discovering the immediate European origins of the Jacob Funkhouser found on Tumbling Run by the 1740s has not advanced beyond a number of theories, despite the DNA study (in part because so few of his descendants have participated in it). One long-standing explanation suggests that he was the son of Christian and Magdalena {Christen} Funkhouser from Alsace, perhaps the Jacob we know was born to this couple in 1705. This would have made Jacob the brother of the Johannes and Christian Funkhouser mentioned earlier, but oral tradition in the Funkhouser family and now the DNA evidence both make us doubt that Jacob was so closely related to the other two. In any case there

is no definite record that links our Jacob Funkhouser to this particular European Funkhouser family.<sup>11</sup>

Other researchers contend that the Jacob Funkhouser of Tumbling Run is the man of that name who was born in Trub, Canton Bern, Switzerland, on May 11, 1702, but this man seems to have stayed in Switzerland. Yet another source, a Funkhouser family history written in 1902, states that the Jacob Funkhouser of Tumbling Run was born in Hesse Cassell, Germany. There are still more notions about Jacob's European family, there being numerous Funkhouser couples in Switzerland, Alsace, and Germany at this time and any number of young Funkhouser males who might have emigrated to America, but we cannot establish a firm connection with any of these European Funkhousers, either. Information about still earlier generations is murky and contradictory, and there is no point in even repeating it here until we can definitely link Jacob Funkhouser to a specific European family of that name.<sup>12</sup>

Thus we have much yet to learn about Jacob and his origins, and some very skilled researchers (with more at stake than we have) are in the same fix we are in. I am inclined to agree with one such researcher, who has argued that since most of the Jacob Funkhousers of Trub are accounted for, the one who lived in Virginia most likely came

---

<sup>11</sup> The Alsatian Funkhousers may have lived in the village of Neuwiller les Savernes before coming to America, but the evidence seems stronger that they lived instead near the villages of Waldhambach and Tieffenbach, also located in the northwestern sector of Alsace. The specific location was a farm called Hansmannshof, which was about a mile east of Tieffenbach.

<sup>12</sup> See my files for details.



from an Alsace family or from a large Funkhouser grouping in Eggiwil, near Trub, where the given name Jacob was more common than in Trub. Several Funkhouser brothers in Eggiwil had large families whose males have not been thoroughly traced, and one of them may be the Jacob we know was living on Tumbling Run from about the 1750s on.

Whatever the specific, immediate European origins of our Jacob Funkhouser, it is generally agreed that the Funkhouser family as a whole was originally Swiss, from the Fankhaus Valley in Canton Bern. Many persons from this valley who went to live in the German Rhineland or in Alsace during the last part of the 17th century and the early part of the next one – Funkhousers among them – considered themselves Swiss even if they later migrated to America from other places in Europe. It is easy to see, therefore, how there could be confusion over whether this particular Jacob Funkhouser who came to the New World began his journey in Switzerland or Alsace.<sup>13</sup>

The DNA evidence shows that all those men tested from the Funkhouser (and Fankhauser and Frankhouser variations) share a common ancestor who lived in the Fankhaus Valley more than 600 years ago. This evidence also suggests that our Jacob most likely descended from a Hans, who, when this valley was divided after his father Niklaus died in 1495, received the Hinter (Upper) Fankhaus; the ancestors of John and Christian

---

<sup>13</sup> At least one Funkhouser was expelled from Switzerland, in 1710, for his religious views, but if the direct ancestors of our Funkhousers migrated first to the Rhineland and then to America voluntarily, there is no evidence they did so for anything except their economic betterment. We fail to appreciate today how poor – and overpopulated – Switzerland was during this era.

Funkhouser of Virginia appear to have descended from Clewi the Younger, who inherited from his father the Vorder (Lower) Fankhaus Valley in 1495. There is still much to be learned, then, and perhaps in time we will be able to close the gap between our Jacob and these 15th-century ancestors, specifically Niklaus, whose line ultimately reaches back to a Hans zum Vanghus who was first mentioned in 1404. The early Funkhousers in Switzerland leased the land of, and managed the sheep belonging to, a Benedictine Monastery in Trub. Members of the Funkhouser family have continued to live on this land right down to the present time.<sup>14</sup>

Like the Funkhousers, the Zincks to whom we now return one last time were numbered among the thousands of Palatine Germans and Swiss who emigrated to America during the 18th century. Many of these emigrants were Mennonites, as we shall see, but it does not appear that either the Funkhousers or the Zincks were practicing members of this sect.<sup>15</sup> The majority of these Germans and Swiss journeyed to Pennsylvania (in part because of William Penn's vigorous recruiting of them). Large numbers of them stayed in that colony, forming the core of what is known today as the Pennsylvania Dutch (a transformation of *Deutsch*, for "German") country in Berks County, Chester County, Lancaster County, and surrounding counties. Others, though, headed south and west, slanting along the impressively broad succession of mountain ranges that channeled them

---

<sup>14</sup> The Funkhouser name derives from a device called a *Fang*, which was used to trap bears that preyed on livestock. The farm near the trap (perhaps that of the trap's tender) became known as the *Fang Haus*, and its occupants naturally became known as Fanghouser, then as Fankhouser, and eventually as Funkhouser.

<sup>15</sup> Many of Jacob Funkhouser's children were raised as Mennonites, but this faith seems to have come from the maternal side of the family.

into the Great Valley of Virginia (where it is known as the Shenandoah Valley) and still further south. Both our Funkhousers and our Zincks were among this latter group.

It would appear that Jacob's father Gottlieb<sup>16</sup> Zinck was born during the first part of the 1730s: in about 1752 he married a woman born in 1734, and in 1766 he was old enough to buy property in Virginia. Unfortunately, we do not know just when Gottlieb or his parents came to America. There are a number of possibilities to consider, and the story of each of these Zinck immigrants sheds a little more light on the problem of identifying our Gottlieb.

Perhaps the Gottlieb Zinck best known today who came to America at this time was born in Rodt, Freudenstadt, Germany, about 1730.<sup>17</sup> Along with his parents and his siblings, in May 1752 he applied to the authorities for the required permission to leave for America. The family was permitted to sail down the Rhine River to Rotterdam, in the Netherlands, and from there to Philadelphia. En route, they stopped for clearance at Cowes, on the Isle of Wight in England. (Colonial law in England required any ship going to its American colonies to make a stop at an English port.) The Zincks traveled

---

<sup>16</sup> This given name, sometimes Americanized to Godlove, was a more or less literal translation of the German, meaning "beloved of God." The name was often mangled by non-Germans into Cutlip, Curtis, or worse.

<sup>17</sup> This area is slightly south of due east from Strasbourg and about thirty miles from the Rhine River, in the region now belonging to Lossburg. Records from this area were destroyed during World War II but are being reconstructed.

aboard a ship called the *Duke of Wirtenberg*, which arrived in Philadelphia on October 20, 1752; the captain was a man named Daniel Montpelier.

This Gottlieb's parents were Hans George & F. [for Frederick?] and Elisabetha Zinck. Because Hans Zinck died in Philadelphia, and because neither of this Gottlieb's two wives was named Barbara, I am inclined to think that he was the Gottlieb Zinck who was living in the Philadelphia area through the American Revolution.<sup>18</sup> In addition, because this Gottlieb Zinck arrived so late in 1752 it is improbable that he would have married Barbara Funkhouser in Virginia later that same year. It may be that Gottlieb and Barbara were married in another year, of course, but it seems more likely that our Gottlieb Zinck arrived earlier than 1752.

It is also possible that our Gottlieb Zinck did not come to America as an adult but was the son of one of the other Zincks who arrived here in 1752 or earlier. We know the names of only some of the Zincks who came to these shores, surely, for not all of them came through Philadelphia (the only port where even some of the names of immigrants were collected), and the children of most of the Zincks who did arrive in America – whether at Philadelphia or elsewhere – are lost to history. Among the other men named Zinck we do know of are Learmer (1738), Daniel (1741), Conrad (1751),<sup>19</sup> and Anthony (1752).

---

<sup>18</sup> This Gottlieb Zinck owned property in Frederick Township of Philadelphia County and served in the city guards during the Revolutionary War.

<sup>19</sup> And possibly another man with this name the next year.

One of the most plausible of these potential fathers of Gottlieb among these early Zinck immigrants is the Jacob Sinc<sup>20</sup> who arrived in Philadelphia on September 14, 1728. His ship, the *James Goodwill*, had sailed from Rotterdam with a stop in Deal. Its commander was David Crockatt. To have been listed by name in the information the Pennsylvania authorities were collecting about the arriving Rhinelanders Jacob had to have been at least sixteen years old when he landed. He was born no later than 1712, therefore, and so was perhaps about the right age to have fathered our Gottlieb during the early 1730s. A fellow passenger on the *James Goodwill* was a Lutheran minister who headed the church with which a Jacob Zinck and his wife Anna Maria were affiliated at least between 1744 and 1751: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. From this we can postulate that Jacob Sinc did not stay in the Philadelphia area but lived in the same Pennsylvania county where Barbara Funkhouser and her family then resided. In the church's records Jacob is said to have been a member of the Reformed Church and Anna is described as a Mennonite, but the couple is also described as desiring to join this Lutheran congregation.<sup>21</sup>

---

<sup>20</sup> As the index lists him. The facsimile of the original document printed in the book of Palatine passengers looks very much like "Zink" to me, however.

<sup>21</sup> See slides 10427 and 10428 (2003) for views of the site of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Jacob and Anna Maria apparently had three children baptized in this church between 1744 and 1751. It is also worth noting that a John Jacob, son of Jacob "Zint," was baptized at Peace (also known as Muddy Creek) Reformed Church in Lancaster County in 1735 and that a Jacob Zinck born in 1722 was a catechumen (communicant) at First Reformed Church in Lancaster during 1750-51. How these persons fit with our Zinck family (including the Jacobs we are referring to) is not clear.

It was at about this time, halfway through the 18th century, that some of the Zincks we have observed living in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, bought property in and moved to the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. This property is described as being opposite the mouth of Naked Creek, at the foot of Peaked Mountain, and in locations elsewhere in what was still Frederick County, Virginia.<sup>22</sup> Among these newly arrived Zincks was a Jacob, but the relationship between these newcomers and our own family of that name who resided in Shenandoah County during the 1750s is not known.<sup>23</sup> We can hypothesize a connection between them and the Jacob Sinc who stepped ashore in Philadelphia in 1728, but much of the evidence is only circumstantial.

---

<sup>22</sup> Once again, see Appendix IV for a discussion of migration into the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. There are two Virginia streams called Naked Creek (so termed because they did not have any vegetation growing on their banks). In my opinion, the stream the Zincks probably lived on is the one now in Page County, near the town of Shenandoah: this part of the Shenandoah Valley was settled as early as the 1740s, mostly by Germans from Pennsylvania, and lies at the very foot of Peaked Mountain. See the USGS map for Elkton East/Virginia and slides 09871-72 (taken in 2001). The other Naked Creek is about a dozen miles southwest of Peaked Mountain (near Burkettown; see the USGS map for Mount Sidney/Virginia and slides 09860 and 09862-65, also taken in 2001). Peaked Mountain is the old name (given to this mountain because from the east its surface appears serrated) for the abrupt southwestern end of Massanutten Mountain, which runs for many miles through the center of the Shenandoah Valley. The northern end of Massanutten Mountain, called Signal Knob, is near Strasburg – and, coincidentally, the Tumbling Run area where our Funkhousers lived. Some Zink researchers place several Zincks somewhat southwest of the Naked Creek now in Page County, but without more study of land records we cannot be positive where Jacob Sinc and the other Zincks lived in any particular year.

<sup>23</sup> Among these unknown Zincks was one named Daniel, mentioned in Augusta County, Virginia, records as early as 1754. He owned 400 acres near Peaked Mountain in 1760; he may have been the Daniel Sing who paid taxes in the Monocacy area of Frederick County, Maryland, in 1750. One Zink researcher describes this land as having been between Port Republic and McGaheysville, which would be just about halfway between the two Naked Creeks mentioned earlier. Daniel continues to appear in records in this area (which became part of Rockingham County) until 1800, it would seem. This man would have been just about the right age to have been a son of Jacob Sinc and a brother of Gottlieb Zinck. Another interesting Zinck is one more Jacob, who enlisted in the militia in Augusta County in 1757; he was a carpenter aged 31 years and so not the Jacob Sinc who arrived in Philadelphia in 1728. How all these Zincks, too, fit into the family we have been studying in this chapter – assuming they do – remains a mystery.

Did this Jacob Sinc/Zinck and his family (including a young Gottlieb?) leave Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, during the early 1750s and travel south to the Shenandoah Valley, part of the German migration from Pennsylvania to that valley? Recalling from a previous chapter that a Jacob Zinck petitioned to be relieved of further county levies in Shenandoah County in 1773, we can wonder if he was the Jacob Sinc who had been living in Lancaster County earlier. The date of the petition suggests that this man would have been born around 1705 to 1710, which would have made him about the right age to have fathered Gottlieb during the 1730s and old enough to have been listed by name on the passenger list of the *James Goodwill* in 1728, but this is not enough to identify him as the Jacob Sink or Zinck in Shenandoah County at that time. Moreover, one scholar has identified the Jacob Sink aboard the *James Goodwill* as a man born in Michelfeld in Northern Kraichgau, Germany, in 1701 who died in Lancaster County. His sons born between 1730 and 1735 did not include a Gottlieb but did include one named Johannes Jacob, born in 1735. It is possible this Jacob Sink was a resident of Shenandoah County when he was an adult, but he would not have been the 1773 petitioner there.

In my estimation, the Gottlieb Zinck we are looking for was probably the one named Johannes Gottlieb Zinck, who arrived in Philadelphia from Rotterdam and Portsmouth aboard the *Duke of Bedford* (Richard Jefferys, captain) on September 14, 1751. He is thought to have settled in Virginia, but what actually became of him after his arrival in Philadelphia cannot be said with certainty. This Gottlieb, too, would have been about the

right age in 1751 as our Gottlieb. Like most Germans, he probably followed the custom of using his middle (“calling”) name rather than his formal given name. Moreover, one expert researcher who has studied the handwriting of the various Zincks we have been considering here has concluded that this man’s signature matches exactly that of the Gottlieb Zinck who married Barbara Funkhouser in Shenandoah County.<sup>24</sup> I think we should accept him as our Gottlieb Zinck unless other evidence to the contrary is encountered.

If naming conventions were followed within the Zinck family, as they were in most families during this era, we would probably be correct in thinking that Gottlieb’s father was a man named Peter Zinck, since our Gottlieb’s first son was named Peter. Unfortunately, there are no obvious Peter Zincks in any of the surviving European records, though our search is complicated by that German tradition of giving children formal first names by which they were baptized. Unless we learn the entire name of Gottlieb’s father, we cannot proceed further with this search for Gottlieb Zinck’s forebears.

Setting aside any further conjecture about the origins of this man, let us take up what we do know about our Gottlieb Zinck. He was first documented in Frederick County,

---

<sup>24</sup> The fact that the Jacob Sink referred to in the previous footnote might have been living near or with Gottlieb Zinck in 1773, when a Jacob Zinck petitioned to be relieved of taxes, suggests that they could have been related somehow – likely as brothers. That in turn could indicate that our Gottlieb may also have originated in Michelfeld in Northern Kraichgau, but this remains speculative.



Virginia, in April 1755 when he was one party in a legal case; later that year, his name was entered on the clerk's list of delinquents – probably for not having paid the costs of this case, or perhaps an outstanding tax of some sort. Gottlieb surely had come to Frederick County no later than 1754 in order to have been involved in a case during April in the next year; in fact, though, there can be little doubt that Gottlieb had already arrived there by 1752, when, we judge, he and Barbara were married. (By then, as we have seen, the Funkhousers had been living in the Shenandoah Valley for two decades, so Gottlieb and Barbara would not have married elsewhere.) Gottlieb Zinck was on lists of tithables for Frederick County in 1756 and 1760 – both times with relatively small sums beside his name. Then, in April 1764, he and Jacob Funkhouser are listed among those present at a sale at Sandy Hook, near Strasburg, where Tumbling Run empties into the Shenandoah River.

In May 1765, there is a reference in another man's deed to Gottlieb Zinck's adjoining property line, but there is no evidence that he himself owned any property in the area specified in this deed: near Saumsville on McNishes (now Pughs) Run just northwest of Woodstock, Virginia – only a few miles south of Tumbling Run. Like Sandy Hook, this area was in the part of Frederick County that would in a few years become Shenandoah County. (Shenandoah County, called Dunmore County for its first six years, was created in 1772.) The circumstances suggest that Gottlieb Zinck might have been engaged as a renter of the property of a man (a resident of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania) who died

intestate and whose 1,500 acres here in the Shenandoah Valley had to be divided among his heirs. It seems possible that Gottlieb had been living in this portion of Frederick County since his arrival in Virginia, but we cannot be sure of this. One wonders if Gottlieb had known the deceased owner, a man named John Baughman, in Lancaster County, and if farming this man's land for him was the reason Gottlieb went to the Shenandoah Valley in the first place.<sup>25</sup>

However Gottlieb happened to be living on Baughman's land on Pughs Run, by July in the next year, 1766, he acquired property of his own by obtaining another man's warrant (presumably by purchasing it). This property was 294 acres along both sides of Stony Creek, about fifteen miles south of the Funkhousers' home on Tumbling Run but still in what would soon become Shenandoah County. Stony Creek runs from the mountains west of Edinburg through that town and into the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. Gottlieb's property was on the upper reaches of Stony Creek. In December 1772, Gottlieb obtained another warrant. This one was for 213 acres called "Surveyor's Camp," described as being four miles below the source of Stony Creek. For reasons unknown Zinck failed to complete the purchase of this property, but in 1774 he bought another 114 acres adjoining his original 294 acres on Stony Creek, receiving title for this second acquisition on February 5, 1778. We do not know whether Gottlieb Zinck

---

<sup>25</sup> Thanks to a skilled researcher, we can identify the approximate location of the land on which Gottlieb Zinck lived in 1765. Fortunately, the deed that mentions Gottlieb's property line cites how the land he was occupying related to the other properties it referred to. See the USGS map for Woodstock/Virginia and digital images 00752 and 00753 (2010) for views of where Zinck apparently lived in 1765. This land lies very close to our former property on Back Road, just a mile or so to the southwest.

actually moved to the Stony Creek property as early as 1766, but two references to him in county records make one suspect that he lingered in the Strasburg-Woodstock area of the county until as late as the early 1770s. His selection in mid-1773 as one of those chosen to inventory and appraise the property of a deceased resident of the Stony Creek area suggests, though, that he had begun living there himself.

Gottlieb Zinck's two purchases on Stony Creek are shown on a contemporary survey of the area, which reveals their exact location: the area encompassing the junction of Stony Creek and Rails Run. (The name of the latter is spelled variously, even today.) His property ran along what is today called Dellinger Acres Road just off Route 42.<sup>26</sup> That the Zincks and the Funkhousers remained closely associated over the years is shown by the fact that in 1772 Gottlieb Zinck added his name to a petition for a road along Tumbling Run near the Funkhouser property. (It is his signature on this petition that appears to match the one on the passenger register of the *Duke of Bedford*.) As we have seen in our discussion of the ministry of Gottlieb's son, Jacob, the Zinck property on Stony Creek was close to Zion Lutheran Church, which the family – including young Jacob, who grew up on Stony Creek – must have regarded as their home church.

---

<sup>26</sup> See the USGS map for Conicville/Virginia for the location of Gottlieb Zinck's Stony Creek properties and slides 09866-70 for views of this area in 2001. Some of his land may now be part of Camp Strawderman, a well-established and highly regarded camp for girls that was founded in 1929.

Like others in the Shenandoah Valley, Gottlieb probably raised wheat, hemp, and flax, the most common crops. In addition, he may have helped to make charcoal for the voracious iron furnaces that the wooded western part of the valley now fed. But from road orders for Frederick County we also learn that as early as 1767 Gottlieb Zinck was also operating a mill on his property. The proposed road, subsequently opened, is today's Dellinger Acres Road.<sup>27</sup> Gottlieb Zinck is listed on the Shenandoah County tax rolls (property and personal property alike) during the 1780s, his last appearance on them coming in 1790. He is consistently shown with 249 acres (an error: he actually owned 294 acres), three to six horses, and as many as eighteen head of cattle. Sons Peter and Daniel are sometimes listed as members of his household or as near neighbors. Gottlieb Zinck must have supported the American Revolution, willingly or otherwise, for in 1782 he is recorded on an official claim for 420 pounds of beef that he supplied to the Continental Army. In December of that year he hosted a visiting preacher who delivered a sermon in the Zinck home.

On July 28, 1790, Gottlieb and Barbara {Funkhouser} Zinck sold the properties on Stony Creek they had acquired in 1766 and 1778. (In fact, a close analysis of the county's tax rolls suggests that they had moved from those properties in late 1788 or 1789.) Most

---

<sup>27</sup> Cutting the trees and tending the fires to produce charcoal was very labor-intensive work, as was hauling the finished pig iron to market. Each ton of iron required twelve to fifteen cords of wood for charcoal, and a single furnace could cause the deforestation of 20,000 acres within fifteen to twenty years. It was not unusual for a furnace to employ more than one hundred persons who did nothing more than fell trees and burn the wood for charcoal. Early furnaces in Virginia date from at least 1742 in Frederick County and even earlier further south.

Zinck researchers, myself included, have assumed that after the sale they then headed southwest to Washington County, Virginia – presumably in company with their children and their families. Is this assumption correct? We know that Gottlieb was documented in Shenandoah County as late as August 1790 but not thereafter. We also know that Gottlieb’s sons and sons-in-law also disappeared from those tax rolls at about the same time, and that they soon were living in Washington County. But we also know that Gottlieb Zinck did not get recorded on the tax rolls in that latter county until 1795, after which he was listed every year through 1802. This is curious.

Even more curious, a deed in Washington County indicates that Gottlieb (termed a “yeoman” in the deed) did not buy property there until June 18, 1802, shortly before he died. This land was approximately 260 acres belonging to Christopher Funkhouser, Barbara’s relative, in two tracts on both sides of Beaver Creek. The property was in the same Rust Hollow area where Gottlieb and Barbara’s son Jacob had been living at least since 1791 – indeed, the properties of this father and son nearly adjoined one another.<sup>28</sup>

Yet Gottlieb is described in this 1802 deed as being from Washington County, so he presumably had been living in the county for at least a time before then. Exactly where

---

<sup>28</sup> As we have seen in our discussion of Jacob Zinck, Rust Hollow is located near Abingdon, Virginia. See the USGS maps for Warren/Virginia and Wyndale/Virginia. See my files for one modern researcher’s estimation of where Gottlieb’s property was situated. His land, south of Countiss Ridge, encompassed portions of Black Hollow and Reedy Creek Roads and their intersection. Also see slides 11094-11103, taken in 2005, for the approximate location of Gottlieb’s property; these slides, however, were taken before the exact site of his land was more recently determined.

he was living during these dozen years between 1790 and 1802 we do not know; we will return to this matter shortly.

Gottlieb Zinck's will, which he signed on December 26, 1801, was recorded in Washington County, Virginia, on December 21, 1802, so he died between June 18 and December 21 in that year. In this will, Gottlieb refers to his wife not as Barbara but as Rosanna. Oddly, there is no record of his marriage to Rosanna, in either Shenandoah County or, even more strangely, in Washington County where his son Jacob was a minister.

In my opinion, all this evidence suggests that Gottlieb (accompanied by Barbara if she was still alive) probably left Shenandoah County for Washington County at about the same time as the other Zincks did, perhaps during the fall of 1790 or (more likely) the next spring. My hunch is that although Barbara might have died in Shenandoah County any time after the property sale in July 1790, she probably died in Washington County sometime between then and the mid-1790s. Afterwards, Gottlieb likely married a woman – a widow? – he had met in Washington County. (It is also possible, but less likely, that Rosanna was someone he had previously known in Shenandoah County and that he returned there to marry her after Barbara had died.)

Why does it appear that Gottlieb and Barbara – assuming she was still alive when the Zincks moved from Shenandoah County – did not purchase property when they arrived in Washington County? I suspect that for some undetermined time after 1791 but before 1794 or 1795 Gottlieb (with or without Barbara) lived on the land in Rust Hollow that we know his son Jacob bought in April 1791. If Barbara had indeed died before the move to southwest Virginia, perhaps it was Gottlieb's intention to live with one of his children. Alternatively, or perhaps Jacob's parents decided to do so now that they had both reached an advanced age. (An advantage of such an arrangement would have been Gottlieb's presence on the farm while Jacob Zinck was absent so often fulfilling his ministerial obligations.) Either of these explanation would account for why there is just one land purchase recorded for the two Zinck men, Jacob and his father Gottlieb.

Then, during the mid-1790s, Gottlieb met and married Rosanna, which led him to purchase his own property. Although it is possible that this purchase did not take place until mid-1802, just before his death later that year, it is noteworthy that the neighbors mentioned in that 1802 deed were the ones from a number of years *earlier* (not 1802, in other words). This suggests to me that Gottlieb Zinck had purchased the 260 acres during the 1790s and that a deed was needed in 1802 to record its sale to him in anticipation of his imminent death. Without more information, though, we can only theorize like this about exactly what happened in Gottlieb's life between 1790 and 1802.<sup>29</sup>

---

<sup>29</sup> On October 9, 1798, a Gottlieb Zinck purchased 40 acres on Three Mile Mountain, along which Stony Creek runs, practically within sight of the property Gottlieb and Barbara Zinck had owned in this area from

Gottlieb's will left his house and possessions to Rosanna but his land to son Daniel, who was directed to treat Rosanna as if she were his mother and to pay her rent in accordance with a written contract his father refers to in the will. She was entitled to live on Gottlieb's plantation – and to rental income, determined by a panel of four men – should she move from it. Daniel was also obligated to pay sums to his siblings (including our Jacob), who are named in the will, also according to the terms of the contract. Daniel and Rosanna, who served as administrators of Gottlieb Zinck's will, paid fees as specified through 1809 but do not seem to have filed any report.<sup>30</sup>

This uncertainty about the final years of Gottlieb Zinck brings us to the end of the (visible) trail for our Zinck family in America. We have only a handful of clues about the family's possible origins in Europe. One is a reference to a John Jacob Zinck, a weaver in Preuschkorf in northern Alsace, who lived during the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Another is a reference to a Pastor Zink in Marbach in Baden-Württemberg, a

---

1766 through 1790. This Gottlieb Zinck sold the land on March 10, 1801. Since these transactions took place so long after our Gottlieb (and Barbara?) had left the county, and since the Gottlieb who purchased in 1801 was described as a resident of Shenandoah County, the likelihood is that he was a younger man who shared the same name as the Gottlieb Zinck we are studying here. In fact, there was a Gottlieb Zinck who was baptized in Shenandoah County in 1773 and who was in 1794 a tithable in the household of the Jacob Zinck who was exempt from taxation – that is, the possible brother of Gottlieb Zinck the immigrant. Every sign points to the purchaser having been this younger Gottlieb, who possibly was named for his uncle, our Gottlieb Zinck.

<sup>30</sup> Gottlieb Zinck's will was written in German and translated into English. Daniel Zinck and his wife sold the property they inherited from his father (now described as 276 acres) in 1805 and 1806 and moved to Kentucky thereafter.



man who was alive at the time Gottlieb Zinck crossed the ocean to America and so could have been his father or grandfather.

In addition, it is of some interest to note the claim of one Zink researcher that this family can be traced to a Volcnant V von Erlach (1168-1230).<sup>31</sup> Von Erlach was a poet and master of the medieval cornet, or *Zincke*, from which the later members of this man's family took their name. The Erlach region, where the Zincks lived for many generations, is in the area where Germany, France, and Switzerland come together. The Zinck line, according to this researcher, goes back eventually to a Danish king, Harald Klak (784-850) of the Skioldung dynasty. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of any of this, but it is an intriguing thought.

With that comment we complete our study of the entire Zink line, which we began with the father of Anabel {Zink} Vanderpool, William R. Zink, the son of Michael and Clarissa {Hugbanks} Zink. After a pause to examine the Hugbanks family, we moved on to Michael's parents, Jacob (James?) Zinck and Mary {Ring} Zinck. After another detour into the Ring family, we examined Jacob's presumed parents Jacob and Mary M. Zinck and finally this earlier Jacob's parents, Gottlieb and Barbara {Funkhouser} Zinck. A good case can be made that this is the accurate line, but we must admit that some of the evidence is not as complete as we would like it to be.

---

<sup>31</sup> See the complete (and detailed) genealogy, in my files.