

Johann Martin Harter Sr. 1706-1800 (P-176576)
Patriotic Service, Northampton Co., Pa.
and
Johann Martin Harter Jr. 1740-1804 (P-176577)
Sergeant, 2d Battalion, Northampton Co. Militia

To begin let me say; in none of the records for these two men, father and son, to my knowledge, would you find the suffix, Sr. or Jr. The lack thereof, you can be certain, could cause a researcher much distress. SAR Genealogist/Registrars added the Sr. and Jr. to more easily identify which was which, and because it is now common practice to do so.

Johann Martin Harter Sr. (Herter) arrived in Philadelphia from Rotterdam 25 September 1751. Martin Jr. was but eleven years old at the time and not listed on the ships manifest. It was a common practice at that time not to list women and minor children. Martin Sr. first settled in Whitehall Twp., later in Heidelberg Twp., Northampton Co., Pa. We can assume Martin Sr. was quite wealthy due to the large number of land warrants and patents that he accrued and is a matter of court record. It is also known that he was an "innholder" and a "storekeeper". The Harters were Lutheran and members of that congregation where ever they lived. Martin Sr. is recorded in the 1790 Census with two males under sixteen, two over sixteen and four females. Most of these remained in what would become Lehigh Co., Pa.

It was not until 1782 that Martin Sr. performed his patriotic service by serving parts of the 6th Battalion, Northampton Co. Militia. There were three events recorded in the Pa. Archives, Series 5, Vol. viii, Pgs 489, 495 and 500 naming the companies of Captain William Meyers on 18 April, Captain Adam Stahler on 25 May and Captain Henry Kregloh on 27 July 1782. Each company was called out for a muster roll at "John Martin Herters" to begin service for two months by their respective Lt Col in command.

Martin Harter Jr. at some time after he reached his majority did two things of interest. He removed to Nescopeck Twp., Northampton Co. (now Luzerne Co.), Pa. And, he became a Sergeant in the 2d Battalion, Northampton Co. Militia (Pa. Archives, Series 5, Vol. viii, Pg. 116) serving under Captain Daniel Shnyder on 4 August 1778.

It would seem Martin Jr. followed in his father's footsteps; he became a landholder, an innkeeper and a storekeeper in what is now the Borough of Wapwallopen. It is a congested area on the east side of the Susquehanna River with an rising elevation of land along the base of which is an area of land set aside for a burial ground just south of Wapwallopen. Martin Jr. is buried there, the deteriorated original red sandstone marker was removed and replaced by a Federal Government stone which reads, "Martin Harter 1740-1804 Serg't 2d Batt Northampton Co. Militia".

In retrospect, early census records leave a lot to be desired. Martin Jr., the Sergeant, is named in the 1800 Census for Nescopeck Twp., Luzerne Co. as a householder with 13 persons in his family. During my research I can account for three sons and four daughters, so who were the extra four persons, grandchildren???

An interesting bit of the Harter history is; Magdalene, Martin Sr's first wife died. Martin Sr. remarried Catherine Maurer, a widow with a daughter, Christina Margretha. Martin Jr. married this daughter, thereby making his step-mother his mother-in-law. And, with that bit of extraneous information, I will sign off.

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