

This compiler is unable to establish his whereabouts after he landed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania until the year 1728, when we find recorded in the family Bible that his son, Christian II, was born on March 18, 1728, on the Mossillium in the County of Philadelphia, later Berks County, Pennsylvania.

We can assume that from about 1727 to about 1735 he and his famiy were lingering around in the area of the Moselem Springs in the County of Philadelphia, presently Berks County, Pennsylvania; but as to their whereabouts from 1718 to 1727, we can only assume that Johann Christian and his family lingered somewhat aimlessly in the southeastern part of Pennsylvania searching for a permanent place suitable for them to settle. This compiler believes that they stayed in the area of Lower Montgomery County, in the vicinity of Shippack, Pennsylvania, and the area of the Providence Church at Trappe, Pennsylvania where, as per records of this church, we find that his youngest son, Gaspard, was baptized on October 10, 1730 by the Reverend Johann Casper Stoever, his son-in-law.

We also find that another Merkel by the name of Jacob Merkel, emigrated from Germany in 1722 and settled at or near Shippack, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. It is believed that this Jacob was closely related, or at least very friendly. Other genealogists also share this same belief, but to this time (1977), no one has ever been able to find the connection, nor does anyone have the ramifications to find the linkage. Unfortunately, many of the church records were either destroyed or burned during the War of Persecution in Germany.

In 1734, Johann Christian Mercklen received the first patent of land from the Penns on May 7th for 150 acres and on May 9, 1745 for 50 acres, all in the area of the Moselem Springs, Philadelphia (now Berks) County, Pennsylvania. Family tradition has it that around 1742 the Mercklens came on horse-back from the "Flat", as this valley was called, in Richmond Township, Berks County, Pa. because it was a very fertile part of land in the East Penn Valley.

They came to explore the land along the waters of the Mossillia (Mossillium) or Moselem, as it is presently called. At this time, there were very many wild geese along the waters, it being hatching time, and they (the geese) attacked the pioneers--possibly while they were stealing their eggs for an evening meal. The pioneers had pitched their tents in the locality. Note: to this date, 1977, there are still many geese and ducks enjoying the waters and the dam that the pioneers built, which was to be used to provide water power to run the grist mill which they built on this property--later called "Merkel 's Mill".

Johann Christian Mercklen (also called Merckling) was a blacksmith and coach-maker by trade and established a wagon shop and blacksmith chop, and he also established a grist mill which was believed to have been built of logs around 1747 or 1749.

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As was mentioned earlier, Johann Christian was first married to Jemima Weurtz, but we are unable to find any record of children with this wife. He was married the second time to Anna Catharina Brucker, with whom he had nine children. He was also married a third time to Eva Kelchner. Although we are unable to find any record of this marriage, proof is found by the fact that Johann Christian and Eva Kelckner Mercklen were sponsors at baptism for a grandson, the son of the daughter, Frantizina, and Michael Ruch or Rugh, who was born on January 2, 1749 and baptized at the Moselem Lutheran Church. We can, therefore, conclude that Johann Christian was married three times.