

## JACOB WEIDLER 1748-1818 AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

No record was found that Jacob Weidler ever participated actively in the American Revolution. Quoting from *The Pennsylvania-German in the Revolutionary War 1775-1783,* "On August, 1780, the county [Lancaster] was required to furnish 1,200 barrels of flour, monthly, 5,000 bushels of forage, 50 wagons, 400 horses, and 600 men." Jacob Weidler's name is on the list of those furnishing wagons in compliance with this demand. There is the less likely possibility that this reference was to the son of Jacob's deceased brother John, who was also named Jacob Weidler and was also a resident of Lancaster County. Although he was only 22 years old at the time, he was the head of his household since the death of his father in 1775.

In the chapter on Manheim Township from Ellis and Evans *History of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania*, Jacob Weidler's name appears on a 1777 list of Non-Associators, that is, those who were unwilling to take up arms in the American revolutionary cause.<sup>2</sup> While most of those on the list were of the Amish or Mennonite persuasion, these would not have included Jacob who was a member of the German Reformed Church.

The two records shown in the following page from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania also do not indicate service during the Revolutionary period. The first is a True List, a list of those able-bodied men who were of an age to be eligible for service on 24 June 1782. The second records a fine levied against Jacob Weidler for failure to appear for a muster call in 1784 which was actually a year beyond the cessation of hostilities. It is not clear why the dates (1777-1780) appear under Remarks.

<sup>1</sup>Henry M. M. Richards, *The Pennsylvania-German in the Revolutionary War,* Proceedings and Addresses: Pennsylvania German Society, vol. 17 (Lancaster, PA: Pennsylvania German Society, 1908), pp. 476-477.

<sup>2</sup>Franklin Ellis and Samuel Evans, *History of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men* (Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1883.), p. 981.

### COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

BUREAU OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY WILLIAM PENN MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES BUILDING BOX 1026

HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

T	0	12 April 1981		
	of the Pennsylvania St Revolutionary War Serv	d below was abstracted from an original document in the custody atte Archives. Duty after Nov. 1783 is not considered to be vice.		
	Abbreviations: C/R Class Roll	Inactive Duty Militia		
	M/R Muster Roll	WEIDLER, JACOB Rank		
	P/R Pay Roll	Lieutenancy LANCASTER County Battalion 81H  Company 7TH CAPT. MARTIN WEYBRIGHT Class 6TH		
	C/L Class List	Remarks:		
y.	DQT. Delinquent	Authority: TRUE LIST  Date 24 JUNE, 1782 Muster Fines C. Published A(2)VII, 859-60		
	ABT Abated	"Military Accounts: Militia," Records of the Comptroller General, RG-4		
T/L		THE BASIC RECORD DOES NOT PROVE ACTIVE DUTY.  Township of Residence:  Manheim		
	N.D. No Date			

#### COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION BUREAU OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY WILLIAM PENN MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES BUILDING BOX 1026

HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

22 April 198 TO The information listed below was abstracted from an original document in the custody of the Pennsylvania State Archives. Duty after Nov. 1783 is not considered to be Revolutionary War Service. Abbreviations: C/R Inactive Duty Class Roll WEIDLER, JACOB Muster Roll LANCASTER County, Battalion..... Pay Roll CAPT. DAVIS, Samuel C/L Remarks: ....(.1777.-80)..... Class List Authority: FINES LIST Delinquent ABT "Military Accounts: Militia," Records of the Comptroller General, RG-4 Abated THE BASIC RECORD DOES NOT PROVE ACTIVE DUTY. T/L True List Township of Residence:

Manheim

Supreme Executive Council

N.D. No Date

## JACOB WEIDLER and JACOB A. WEIDLER

Jacob Weidler was born 5 May 1748 in Manheim Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the youngest son of Hans Michael and Anna Elizabeth (Klein) Weidler.<sup>1</sup>

About 1770 Jacob married Anna Weibrecht, daughter of Jacob and Anna Maria Weibrecht.<sup>2</sup> Anna had been orphaned at an early age, and was the ward of Michael Weibrecht, husband of Jacob Weidler's sister Anna Weidler.<sup>3</sup>

Jacob Weidler was a farmer.<sup>4</sup> Most men of that era farmed besides whatever else they did for a living, it is not known if Jacob had another occupation. He and his family resided on the plantation in Manheim Township which he had inherited from his father.<sup>5</sup> Many immigrants from continental Europe continued the practice of ultimogeniture after coming to the Colonies. The youngest son (perhaps still a minor at his father's death) was ultimately expected to provide for the widow, receiving the plantation to guarantee her a home during her widowhood.

About five years after Jacob and Anna's marriage the American Revolution began. In 1777 Jacob Weidler's name appeared on a list from Manheim Township of non-associators (those not willing to serve the cause).<sup>6</sup> The name Jacob Weidler was found among those from Lancaster County who furnished wagons for Washington's Storehouse and Supply Depot.<sup>7</sup> These contributions may not have been entirely voluntary. In 1782 Jacob's name appeared on a true list, i.e., a list of those of an age and state of fitness available to serve.<sup>8</sup> In 1784 he was fined 5 pounds for failing to appear for muster.<sup>9</sup> No evidence was found that Jacob Weidler served in the Revolutionary War.

Jacob and Anna Weidler raised a family of five children, the three older being daughters, the two younger, sons. Jacob A. Weidler, born 24 January 1775, was the older of the two sons. <sup>10</sup>

Jacob A. Weidler was married about 1796 to Elizabeth Carpenter, daughter of Abraham and Esther (Heffer) Carpenter. <sup>11</sup> At first Jacob and Elizabeth resided in Earl Township, Lancaster County, near their parents. Shortly after 1800 they moved to Shrewsbury Township, York County, Pennsylvania, where Jacob owned an inn. <sup>12</sup> The fact that Elizabeth's father was an innkeeper may have influenced the couple to choose this line of work. <sup>13</sup> What drew Jacob and Elizabeth to York County is not known.

By the time Jacob died 2 April 1814 at the relatively young age of 39, he and Elizabeth had eight children, Abraham, Jacob, Mary, Isaac, Reuben [our ancestor], Sarah, Esther and William, ranging in age from seventeen years down to two years. York County Veteran's records indicate Jacob served in the war of 1812-1814, but these records lack documentation. The possibility exists that Jacob was a casuality of the war. This is unlikely as he apparently died at home.

As Jacob A. Weidler died intestate, his wife Elizabeth and her brother Henry Carpenter were appointed his administrators. Jacob's liquid assets were insufficient to cover his debts and a portion of his land was exposed to auction. Among his debtors was his father Jacob Weidler, Sr. 16

When Jacob and Elizabeth's oldest son Abraham reached adulthood in 1820 the remaining land was disposed of.<sup>17</sup> Elizabeth died on 16 December 1821 while most of the children were still minors, and their uncle Henry Carpenter became guardian of these minor children.<sup>18</sup> Apparently Elizabeth did not have all she needed to raise her children as her father Abraham Carpenter's will stated that she had drawn on her inheritance before her death, the amount of which must be deducted from what her children were to receive from her portion of his estate.<sup>19</sup>

Jacob Weidler, Sr. had died on 3 June 1818 leaving a will which in effect disinherited the children of his son Jacob A. Weidler, the youngest of whom was only six years old.<sup>20</sup> Although according to York County Court records some of the debt owed by Jacob A. Weidler's estate to Jacob, Sr. had been repaid, apparently according to Jacob Sr's will £200 was still outstanding.<sup>21</sup>

The will instructed the executors that the children of the testator's deceased son Jacob were to receive £200 to be divided among them, provided the £200 still owed by their father's estate was repaid by his administrators before the date of Jacob Sr's death. The debt was not repaid and they did not receive the bequest. Jacob Weidler, Sr. was a wealthy man who left large sums of money and in some cases land to his surviving children. Additionally his will instructed his executors to forgive a debt of £1150 owed to him by his younger son..<sup>22</sup> It is unlikely it shall ever become known what so prejudiced Jacob Weidler, Sr. against the children of his son Jacob, since they were only children and not responsible for the debts of their father's estate.

Jacob Weidler, Sr's wife, Anna (Weibrecht) Weidler, died on 3 April 1821.<sup>23</sup> In her will, except for a small bequest to her surviving son John, she instructed that her estate be divided equally among her three surviving children (one daughter had died without issue) and the children of her deceased son Jacob.<sup>24</sup> Although her estate was pitifully small compared to that of her husband Jacob, Anna distributed what she had impartially.

The children of Jacob A. Weidler did not fare well in respect to their inheritance from their maternal grandfather either. Although Abraham Carpenter bequeathed them the remainder of what would have been their deceased mother's share of his estate, his executor failed to fulfil this obligation even after he was found negligent by the court.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Records of the Evangelical Reformed Church of Kirchardt, Baden, Germany, and Records of the First Reformed Church of Lancaster (City), PA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Records of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Lancaster (City), PA. Anna Weibrecht's birth is recorded here, but her mother's surname is not included, nor is her parent's marriage.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Lancaster County, PA, Misc. Book 1754-1759:84, 31 October 1757. Archives Division, Lancaster County Courthouse, Lancaster, PA. All Lancaster County civil records are at this location unless otherwise noted.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Lancaster County, PA, Will Book M:1:149, Jacob Weidler, 14 April 1818/11 July 1818. Jacob is identified as "yeoman."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Lancaster County, PA, Will Book C:1:284, Michael Weidler, 14 June 1769/4 September 1770.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Ellis, Franklin and Samuel Evans, *History of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1882), p. 981.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>Henry M. M. Richards, *The Pennsylvania German in the Revolutionary War 1775-1783* (Lancaster, PA: Pennsylvania German Society, 1908), pp. 476-477.

<sup>8</sup>Pennsylvania Archives, Fifth Series, 8 vols., comp. Thomas L. Montgomery, (Harrisburg, PA: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania [Harrisburg Publishing Co.], 1906-1907), 7:859-860.

<sup>9</sup>Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, PA, to the compiler, 22 April 1981.

<sup>10</sup>Records of the First Reformed Church of Lancaster (City), PA, and Lancaster County, PA, Will Book M:1:149.

<sup>11</sup>Lancaster County, PA, Misc. Book 1822-1825:161 and St. James Anglican Church, Lancaster, PA [marriages].

<sup>12</sup>York County, PA, Inventory of Jacob Weidler, 22 April 1814/16 May 1814. York County Courthouse, York, PA. All York County civil records are at this location.

<sup>13</sup>Lancaster County, PA, Will Book P:1:329-323, Abraham Carpenter, 9 June 1826/28 April 1829.

<sup>14</sup>York County, PA, Orphans Court Records, Book N:86-87, Jacob Weidler, 8 August 1820.

<sup>15</sup>York County, PA, Office of Veterans' Affairs, York, PA.

<sup>16</sup>York County, PA, Administration Accounts, Jacob Weidler, 10 August 1815.

<sup>17</sup>York County, PA, Orphans Court Records, Book N:86-87.

<sup>18</sup>Tombstone inscription from Carpenter Church Cemetery, West Earl Township, Lancaster County, PA, read by the compiler in October, 1980 and Lancaster County, PA, Misc. Book 1822-1825:161.

<sup>19</sup>Lancaster County, PA, Will Book P:1:329-323.

<sup>20</sup>Tombstone inscription from the cemetery of Salem United Church of Christ, Upper Leacock Township, Lancaster County, PA, and Lancaster County, PA, Will Book M:1:149, Jacob Weidler.

<sup>21</sup>York County, PA, Administration Account, Jacob Weidler, 10 August 1815, and Lancaster County, PA, Will Book M:1:149.

<sup>22</sup>Lancaster County, PA, Will Book M:1:149.

<sup>23</sup>Tombstone inscription from the cemetery of Salem United Church of Christ, Upper Leacock Township, Lancaster County, PA.

<sup>24</sup>Lancaster County, PA, Will Book M:1:524, Anna Weidler, 3 August 1820/30 April 1821.

<sup>25</sup>Lancaster County, Will Book P:1:329-323, and Lancaster County, PA, District Count Appearance Docket 8:66, September Term, 1837..

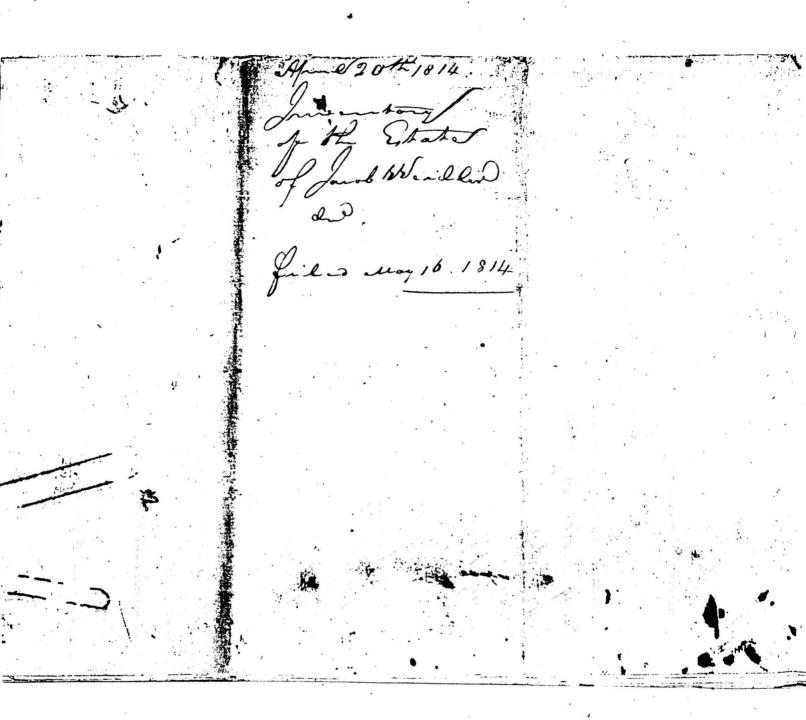
Compiled by:
(Mrs. Sam) Elizabeth Meredith, C.G.
1720 South Gessner Road
Houston, Texas 77063
June, 1991

John R. McGrew, comp. Index of Tavern Licenses Allowed by York County, Pennsylvania: 1749-1806. South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society Special Publication, No. 48. York, PA: South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, 1992.

TABLE II:

# Alphabetical List, 1749-1806

Name	Date	Town/Twp Source
Trinnet losenh -THLh	. 1780	<b>-</b> 12-125
	. 1787	
	. 1791-98,1800-04	
	. 1791.1801-04	
	. 1801	
	. 1795	
	. 1778	
	. 1801	
U		
Libiar Androw	. 1775	Manchester
	1795	
	1758,1763	
Opp, Jacob	. 1784-98,1800-06	TOTA
V		
Venus, Frederick	1805-06	Hopewell
W		
Wagner Frederick -THI-a	1778	11-75
Wagner John	1762,1768	Germany
	1783	
	1798	
	1782	
Welloon Liveh	1761	-
	1768	
	1785-86	
	1786	
	1778,1789-1804	
	1788	
	1797	
	1800	-
	1801-04	
	1797	
Weakfield, John		
	1781	
	1800	*** **
Weaver, Abraham -THI-a	1794	
	1785	
vveems, inomas	1783	MI. JOY
	1784	
	1804-05	
	1778-1806	
	1778,1780-81,1784	
	1801-03,1805-06	
	1805-06	
	1780-91	
	1758	
	1778	
	1795-1805	1
	1786-91	
Welsh, Peter	1778-82	Heidelberg



York County, PA, Inventory of the estate of Jacob Weidler 20 April 1814/16 May 1814

Jacob Weidler's ownership of an inn was responsible for the unusually large size of this inventory.

and chatte, Hoights and credits which were
of Jacob Weidler Late of Hork County
facob Weidler Late of york County finkreper breezed of Such and so much of the Goods and Effects as have come to
but hands knowledge und poppersion
Appraised by us the Subscribers
The 22. Day of april About 1814-
Jacob Keyfen & f
3 bung hooks or forks 0 60
3 hay forks 0 5 7/5
3 Shovels 0 6 0 1 10%.
Loll of plaster and Bassel _ 0 150
Old Hogshouds 0 0 6.
Dime and Barrel 0 10 0
1 pr Hobbles 0 3 0
1 butting box 1 2 6.
1 Saddle and Basket & Britchbands 0.7.6
2 blindhalters - 0 15 0
2 bo 0 7.6
2 40 0 3 9
2 10:17:2