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Jacob Nafzger Lands in America in 1750

settles in Lebanon County. Pennsylvania

Jacob Nafzger arrived in America in 1750 on the ship "Brotherhood." It was an English ship that left the port of Rotterdam in Holland. Since only the names of the adult males were listed on the captain's passenger lists, it [is probable] that he was accompanied by his family. Jacob's journey was a long one. He left Germany for Cowes, England because English officials had made some lucrative promises to the Germans who were being persecuted at the time. Some Germans were stranded as long as two years in England trying to secure passage to America. It is not known how long Jacob was stranded but it is known that he returned to Rotterdam for his passage to America.

JOHN NAFTZGEER
of
WAYNE COUTY



(Grandson of Jacob)

Apparently, Jacob fared better than many other Germans in the misguided venture to England in search for passage to America. He appeared to have departed with with enough of his allowed possessions to establish his family in Lebanon County in short order. As early as 1751, his name begins to appear on the effective tax list in Pennsylvania. He is listed as having land, horses, and cattle for both 1771 and 1772. He applied for a land warranty in 1755 from the State of Pennsylvania for two tracts of land of 100 acres and 50 acres. By 1779 the taxable items on Jacob's farm were reducing but the names of his children begin to appear.

Jacob died in 1783 and according to one source, his burial site is an unmarked site at Bindnagle's church yard cemetery. Jacob left a will which we have reproduced in this issue of the Nafzger Heritage News. We thought it would make interesting reading. As the will states, Jacob was married to Anna and is the father four children, Joseph, Christian, Jacob, and Barbara. One daughter died in infancy.