

Sharon's Notations on the book:

MEAD RELATIONS ❧❧❧❧ MEAD – BROWN – POWELL – KEYSER KELLY – TRUMBO – AUSTIN
TOLER – PRICHARD ❧❧❧❧ Virginia – Kentucky ❧❧❧❧ COMPILED BY A.M. PRICHARD STAUNTON,
VIRGINIA 1933

The author, Armstead Mead Prichard was born 09 Sep 1875 in KY and died 08 Jun 1948 in VA
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Obituary: Charleston Gazette June 10, 1948

"Service Is Today For A. M. Prichard

Service will be at 2:30 p. m. today in the Simpson mortuary chapel for Armstead Mead Prichard,
72, retired Charleston attorney and banker, who died Tuesday at his home in Staunton, Va., following a
long illness.

Dr. George H. Vick, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, of which Mr. Prichard was a member, will
officiate and burial will be in the family plot in Spring Hill cemetery. The family has requested that
flowers be omitted.

Mr. Prichard, a native of Grayson, Ky., was born on Sept. 9, 1875, the son of Dr. Louis and Sarah Belle
Meade Prichard. The family moved to Charleston in 1890 and Dr. Prichard was president of the
Charleston National bank for a number of years.

Mr. Prichard attended Notre Dame university several years and then entered West Virginia university,
graduating in law in 1897. He practiced law in Charleston until 1912, when he entered the Charleston
National bank as cashier. After his father retired in 1920, he became president of the bank. He retired a
year later and moved to Staunton, Va.

Mr. Prichard, a Presbyterian, was active in church affairs and was interested in promoting missions in
the Charleston territory. He and his father had been substantial contributors to the Salvation Army.
Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Betty Douglass Robson Prichard; a son, Armstead Mead Prichard, jr.,
Charlottesville, Va.; two daughters, Mrs. James R. Martin, Greenville, S. C., and Mrs. W. M. Kasper, West
Point, N. Y.; a brother, Fred C. Prichard, San Antonio, Tex.; a nephew, Fred W. Prichard of Charleston and
seven grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Fred W. Prichard, Luttrell Robson, George Robson, W. T. Robson, George Houghton
Robson, J. W. Robson, jr., Emory Mick and Taylor Vinson."

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Written by Sharon L. Lemkuil, completed September 15, 2022

Notes on Mead Relations, Page 177:

Sharon's notations:

The book "The Keyser family: descendants of Dirck Keyser of Amsterdam" written by Charles S.
(Shearer) Keyser, who was born in 1825 and died in 1904, was published in **1889**.

Adam Strickler was the youngest son of David Kaufmann Strickler and Elizabeth Grove (Groff)
and the stepson of Andreas Kayser, also known as Andrew Kiser (Keyser), who married the widow
Elizabeth Grove Strickler as his second wife. Adam was born **05 Mar 1812** in New Market, Shenandoah
(Page) Co., VA and died **12 Mar 1894** in New Market, Page Co., VA age 82 years, 7 days. Adam was born
34 years after Carl Sebastian Kayser died, 16 years after Charles (Carl) Kizer Junior died, and was age 3
years and 25 days when his father David died on **30 Mar 1815**. Elizabeth Grove Strickler married Andrew
Keyser on **5 Oct 1820** when Adam was age 8 years and 7 months old. Andrew Keyser died **23 Nov 1833**
in Page Co., VA and Elizabeth in **1869**. The letter to Ephraim Keyser (Ephraim Andrew Keyser born **21**
Aug 1828 in Shenandoah Co., VA and died **05 Jul 1907** in Page Co., VA, son of Peter James Kiser (Keyser)
and Nancy Fray), was written in **1892**, his 80th year, and quoted in "Forerunners", page 120, written by
Harry M. Strickler and published about **1925**. The Letter includes the "new" information written by
Charles Shearer Keyser in "The Keyser family" about the Shelly marriage, which is then published in 1925
by Harry M. Strickler and again in Meads Relations in **1933**, eventually being incorporated into the

“facts” of their ancestor Carl Sebastian “Charles” KAÏSER (Kysar, Kyser, Kizar, Kizer, Kiser) by the following generations. This also seems to be where the “Keyser” spelling, from Keijser, a Dutch (Netherlands) surname, begins to be used. (See Dovel notes, below) Notes on Mead Relations, Page 177:

Sharon’s notations:

THE KEYSER FAMILY

A brief chronicle of Charles Keyser, written in 1892 by Adam Strickler, his step-grandson, to Ephraim Keyser, his great-grandson, has been copied by Mr. Harry M. Strickler in his book entitled *Forerunners*, page 120. Undoubtedly Adam Strickler recorded the authentic tradition of the family in which he was brought up; and his highly respected character as a schoolmaster of more than forty years’ activity in the same community confirms the verity of his record. His letter is as follows:

“Dear Ephraim:—After my respects to yourself and family, etc., according to promise I here try to give you a genealogy of the Keyser family as near as I can at this late date.

“Your great grandfather, whose name was Charles, *came to America from Germany as a hired soldier in the service of Great Britain to fight against the French and Indians*. After the disastrous battle near Pittsburg, July 9, 1755, he was butcherer in Braddock’s army. He married a Miss Shelly, in Philadelphia, and came to our Valley and lived on Mill Creek. Here your grandfather was born in 1758. Your great grandfather bought property near the mouth of the Hawksbill, built the old Keyser house, lived and died in it. The house was built in about the year 1765. His age and death I cannot give any account of, but he was an old man, and died about the year 1777.”

“His children were as follows: Charles, Andrew and John—the girls were Anna Koontz, Mary Kelley, Mrs. Austin and Kate—she was never married.”

“Charles lived and died opposite the mouth of the Hawksbill and was buried at the old Keyser graveyard. He had two sons, David and Joseph. They sold out and went west many years ago.

“In February 1781, your grandfather went in the army (Southern department under Gen. Green), was at the battle of Guilford Court House, Eutaw Springs, and many others. Came home and married Sarah Rhinehart. She died in April, 1820. John married her sister Katie. She was the mother of Alexander and Christopher Keyser. Your grandfather’s family were as follows: Noah married Anna Rhodes, George married Esther Hershberger, Peter’s first wife was Miss Ortz, his second wife was Miss Fray, Andrew’s first wife was Miss Brubaker, his second was Julia Cox, Charles married Amanda Haun, she is still living, is 81 years old. Polly married John Cullers, Sallie married Henry Cullers, Margaret married John Reedy, Susan married Ephraim Trumbo, Lydia married Isaac Austin, her cousin, Esther married Isaac Dovel. Your grandfather died in November, 1833. He died of dropsy. He was 75 years old. A year or two before his death he was baptized and received into the Big Spring Church—lived

Full Title: “Forerunners : a history or genealogy of the Strickler families, their kith and kin, including Kauffmans, Stovers, Burners, Ruffners, Beavers, Shavers, Brumbachs, Zirkles, Blossers, Groves, Brubakers, Neffs, Rothgebs and many other early families of Shenandoah, Rockingham, Augusta, Frederick and Page counties of the Shenandoah Valley; a memorial to those who have gone before” by Harry M. (Miller) Strickler.

“From about 1700 to the present time, 1924”.

Published about 1925.

Strickler’s mention of Carl Sebastian “Charles” Kaÿser in “THE KEYSERS” section of his book was “THE KEYSERS Chas. Keyser, b. in Germany, came to America, fought against the French and Indians, afterwards m. Miss Shelly of Phila. Built a home near the mouth of the Hawksbill.”

Below are the relevant pages from *Forerunners*, pages 120-122, Strickler’s entire inclusion of the “Keyser” family taken almost exclusively from Adam Strickler’s Letter to Ephraim Keyser. As we see later, this “information” from Adam is a combination of personal knowledge and the family lore which began with the visit of

Isaac C. Dovel to Philadelphia and Virginia in 1876 and which Dovel later corrected in his personal notes after contacting kin in Ohio who possessed the actual Kaÿser Bible Record of the family of Carl Sebastian Kaÿser which was written in German.

**Clipping from the Page Paper July 1911, which appeared in the
Page Paper of an earlier date.
"Genealogy of the Keyser family
(from the files of the Page News)**

We have seen nothing more interesting for a long time than the following letter written a few years ago by the late Adam Strickler to our old friend E. A. Keyser, Oct. 28, 1892.

Dear Ephraim:- After my respects to yourself and family, ect., according to promise I here try to give you a genealogy of the Keyser family as near as I can at this late date.

Your great grandfather, whose name was Charles came to America from Germany as a hired soldier in the service of Great Britain to fight against the French and Indians. After the disastrous battle near Pittsburg, July 9, 1755, he was butcherer in Braddock's army. He married a Miss Shelly, in Philadelphia, and came to our Valley and lived on Mill Creek. Here your grandfather was born in 1758. Your great grandfather bought property near the mouth of the Hawksbill, built the old Keyser house, lived and died in it. The house was built in about the year 1765. His age and death I cannot give any account of, but he was an old man and died about the year 1777.

His children were as follows: Charles, Andrew and John—the girls were Anna Kountz, Mary Kelley, Mrs. Austin and Kate—she was never married.

Charles lived and died opposite the mouth of the Hawksbill and was buried at the old Keyser graveyard. He had two sons, David and Joseph. They sold out and went west many years ago.

In February 1781, your grandfather went in the army (Southern department under Gen. Green), was at the battle of Guilford Court House, Eutaw Springs, and many others. Came home and married Sarah Rhinehart. She died in April, 1820. John married her sister Katie. She was the mother of Alexandria and Christopher Keyser. Your grandfather's family were as follows: Noah married Anna Rhodes, George married Esther Hershberger, Peter's first wife was Miss Ortz, his second wife was Miss Fray, Andrew's first wife was Miss Brubaker, his second was Julia Cox, Charles married Amanda Haun, she is still living, is 81 years old. Polly married John Cullers, Sallie married Henry Cullers, Margaret married John Reedy, Susan married Ephraim Trumbo, Lydia married Isaac Austin, her cousin, Esther married Isaac Dovel. Your grandfather died in November 1833. He died of dropsy. He was 75 years old. A year or two before his death he was baptized and received into the Big Spring Church—lived an exemplary member until his death. He was a strong Democrat of the Jefferson and Jackson stamp, and from him I imbibe my

It is apparent from the notation at the beginning of the page that Harry M. Strickler used the published Letter from the July 1911 Page newspaper and did not have an original copy of the Letter. It is unknown who on the paper's staff obtained the letter but they thought it was news-worthy enough to publish, and thus, we begin the entire legendary story of our ancestor Carl Sebastian Kayser with an unsourced, undocumented recollection of an elderly man personally written to his step-grandson. As with any such sources, information must be verified and scrutinized for accuracy. In this case

however, it seems that the letter was assumed to be "gospel" and the information repeated multiple times as the true genealogy without question. It should be noted that in this version of the letter the name of **Anna Kountz** is spelled correctly, while in the Meads Relations version it is "**Anna Koontz**" which is incorrect and used throughout in Meads Relations which confuses the Kountz family with the Koontz family and also uses the "Keyser" spelling exclusively. **Alexandria** in the letter is **Alexander**.

9. Lydia m. Isaac Austin, her cousin
10. Esther m. Isaac Dovel
11. Sallie m. Henry Cullers

The old Keyser house, built of logs, the one Adam speaks of no doubt, still stands (1923) slightly above a point opposite the mouth of the Hawksbill, near the mansion house on the old Keyser farm, now owned by Raymond Strickler, son of McKendra Strickler. The old house is used for an out-house. Some one told me that there was a large staple driven into one of the logs on the inside to which two prisoners were chained until they could be conveyed to Woodstock. This was before Page County was formed. Here Charles Keyser lived, according to Adam, and I understand that Major Andrew Keyser, of Revolutionary fame, lived here, as well as his son, Col. Andrew Keyser, of the Civil War. Chas. Keyser, brother of Col. Keyser, lived several hundred yards south of the Major's home. The old graveyard is south of the latter home and about midway between the two.

French and Indians, afterwards m. Miss Shelly of Phila. built a home near the mouth of the Hawksbill.

His children:

1. Charles m. and built a home opposite the mouth of the Hawksbill, had two sons David and Joseph who went west.
2. John m. Katie Rhinehart sister of Sarah. Had two sons, Alexander and Christopher.
3. Anna m. Koontz
4. Mary m. Kelly
5. Mrs. Austin
6. Katie, single
7. Andrew (Maj), b. 1758, m. twice, soldier in the Revolution (1) Sarah Rhinehart, sister of Katie, she d. in Apr. 1820. (2) Elizabeth Grove-Strickler, widow of David Strickler of New Market.

His children by his 1st wife,

1. Noah m. Anna Rhodes
2. George m. Esther Hershberger
3. Peter m. (1) Ortz (2) Fray
4. Andrew, Col. m. (1) Brubaker (2) Julia Cox
5. Chas. m. Amanda Haun (81 yrs. in 1892)
6. Polly m. John Cullers
7. Margaret m. John Reedy
8. Susan m. Ephraim Trumbo

*Maj. Andrew Keyser referred to in the above as "your grandfather" married Adam's widowed mother and became his stepfather.

"Sudie Brumback" was Miss Keyser m. (1) Abram Rothgeb (2) Thomas Brumback. The above article appeared again in Page News may 23, 1922, and was taken from same paper of date Oct. 20, 1905.

In the list of children Anna is once again noted as marrying "Koontz" which is incorrect as Anna Kayser (Kiser) who died in 1826 married Philip Kountz (Counts) who died in 1842. Obviously Adam knew little about the family beyond the Andrew Kiser branch. At the bottom of the Page it is note that the letter was also published on 22 Oct 1905 and 23 May 1922 at which time the Kountz-Counts family had been gone from the Valley for 35 years as well as many of the other

descendants of Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser. According to Harry M. Strickler's statements, Meads Relations would be the FIFTH published repetition of Adam Strickler's letter to Ephraim Keyser. On page 122 is a description of two homes on the Kayser-Keyser plantation, one a Fort home "built of logs" by Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser and the other "mansion" built later by Andrew Kiser (Keyser). The location of the family graveyard now known as the Keyser Family Cemetery is also given.

(21) ⁵JOHANNES⁴, m. Barbara Funk (circa 1744); ch., ¹JOHN⁵, ²CHRISTIAN⁵, ³MICHAEL⁵, b. —, d. 1794, ⁴CHARLES⁵.

⁴CHARLES⁵, m. — Shelly, d. of Dr. Shelly, Philada., moved from Germ. to Page Co., Va., prior to the Revolution; ch., ¹JOSEPH⁶, ²—⁶, ³JOHN⁶. ²—⁶, m. and left one son, ¹CHARLES⁷, b. 1793, and living 1889.

³JOHN⁶, m. Catherine Rhinehart; ch., ¹ALEXANDER⁷, ²ELIZABETH⁷, ³CHRISTOPHER⁷, b. 19, 3, 1799; d. 8, 9, 1869.

³CHRISTOPHER⁷, m. — Urner; ch., ¹Mary Catherine⁸, b. 6, 2, 1822. ²Elizabeth Ann⁸, b. 10, 3, 1823. ³Susan Rebecca⁸, b. 29, 11, 1824.

⁴Sarah Ann⁸, 30, 11, 1829. ⁵John Anderson⁸, 30, 11, 1829. ⁶Abigail⁸, 30, 3, 1831. ⁷Frances M.⁸, 6, 10, 1832. ⁸Henry Marsellus⁸, 24, 1, 1835. ⁹Barbara Allen⁸, 11, 3, 1838. ¹⁰Emily Jane⁸, 21, 4, 1839. ¹¹Family Margaret⁸, 23, 1, 1841.

¹Mary Catherine⁸, m. Jas. Wright; ch., Irene, William, John, Cecil, Jennette.

²Elizabeth Ann⁸, m. Samuel Skidmore; ch., Calvin, Marsellus, Rebecca, Frank, Family, Charles, Thomas.

³Susan Rebecca⁸, m. Rev. Martin Urner; ch., Anne, Charles Keyser, Clarence, Fannie, Maggie.

⁴Caroline Abigail⁸, m. Milton Taylor; ch., Jennie, Hiram.

⁷Francis M.⁸, m. Joseph Bumgarden; ch., Annie Lizzie.

⁸Henry Marcellus⁸, m. Nannie Kite; ch., Carrie, William, Ernest, Thomas, Virgie, Otis, Annie, Maggie.

¹⁰Emily Jane⁸, m., 1st, Jouette Gaily; ch., William, Annie, Olie, Charles; m., 2d, Thaditus Mayes; ch., ———.

²CHRISTIAN⁵, m. Barbara Evans (Conrad); ch., CHRISTIAN.

¹CHRISTIAN⁶, m. Elizabeth Conrad; ch., ¹JACOB C.⁷, ²JOSEPH⁷, d. without issue; ³CHARLES C.⁷, d. without issue; ⁴SAMUEL C.⁷, ⁵RACHEL⁷, ⁶MARY⁷, ⁷ANN⁷, who m. Charles Warner; ⁸JOHN⁷.

⁵RACHEL⁷, m. — Nace; ch., Margaret, who m. — Young; Ann, who m. — Fritz.

⁶MARY⁷, m. Conrad Wolfe.

⁸JOHN⁷,* m. —; ch., ¹John H.⁸, ²Christopher⁸, ³Joseph⁸, ⁴Samuel⁸.

¹John H.⁸, m. Elizabeth Judah, d. of David and Elizabeth Judah; ch., ¹William J.⁹, ²John H.⁹,† ³Elizabeth⁹. ¹William J.⁹, m. Harriet Swift; ch., Nelly Everett m. P. W. Atkin, Elizabeth J., d. William Swift, of Pensacola, Fla. ²John H.⁹, m. Jessie Farquharson.

* John built the first dock in Pensacola.

† John H., his grandson, built the first dock in California, foot of Jay Street, Sacramento City, 1850. He is the author of "Reason and Revelation," in reply to Ingersoll; and interested and actively employed on work for the progress of humanity (see p. 70).

As Charles Shearer Keyser's ancestry is Dutch of the Netherlands, the first ancestor being from Amsterdam, we can say with certainty that he is **NOT a descendant of Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser, the German.** It can be concluded that while the descendants of "Charles Keyser" in this book are **mostly correct beginning with Johannes "John" Kayser (Kiser/Keyser)** born 11 Nov 1769 on the Kayser plantation in Frederick Co., VA (now Springfield District, Page Co., VA) and died 28 Dec 1849 in Page Co., VA, the son of Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser the German, Charles Shearer Keyser made an error in his genealogy and **can be dismissed as a reliable source** for our ancestor Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser. Despite the mention of **Charles⁵** (son of Johannes⁴ and

Barbara Funk; with brothers John⁵ Christian⁵ and Michael⁵) **NONE OF WHICH is correct for Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser**, the genealogy next gives children JOSEPH⁶ [true for Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser but without any information so he could be a different man] Unknown⁶ JOHN⁶ [true for Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser, see further] Unknown⁶ who left one son Charles⁷ born 1793 and living in 1889 [INCORRECT for Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser; Charles Jr.'s son Charles (III) died in 1796; Joseph's son Charles was born in 1796 and died in 1880; Andrew's son Charles was born in 1806 and died in 1891]. The line continues with JOHN⁶ (above) who married **Catherine Rhinehart** and had children **Alexander⁷, Elizabeth⁷** and **CHRISTOPHER⁷** (born 19 Mar 1799; died 08 Sep 1896) and continues with the line of **CHRISTOPHER⁷**. **Christopher is the uncle of Isaac C. Dovel**, making it **certain** that Charles Shearer

Keyser received this information **directly from Dovel himself** when he was in Philadelphia, and also assuring us that the “tangled web” of this genealogy began with Dovel’s **mistaken idea** that he was part of the **Dutch KEYSER Family!** As we see in further notes **he corrected himself** with information from the **actual Kaÿser Family Bible.**

Posted by Julia Voyles April 04, 2000 at 07:49:00: “We have received e-mail from Edward Barnes, (5 Jul 1998), a descendant of the Dutch Keyser / Kiser line, not at this time affiliated with our line. He says: “I do have a reference to Charles Keyser who married a Miss Shelly. My information is that she was the daughter of a Dr. Shelly of Philadelphia. The information says that after they married, they moved to Page County, Virginia. I don’t have specific dates, except that I show that Charles, b. **1751**, was the son of Johannes Keyser (who was born **July 25, 1721** in Germantown) and Barbara (Funk) Keyser. I don’t have a birth or marriage date for Charles. But they moved to Shenandoah County, VA **just before the start of the American Revolutionary War.** HOWEVER -- although the family line from Johannes (showing Charles and ___ Shelly) is documented in the **1889** Keyser Family History, more recent research by William Hires of Penn Valley, PA, **casts considerable doubt on the whole line beginning with Johannes’ children.** As I recall, there were two different lines that some folks claim descended from Johannes. He says that **the 1889 history is incorrect based on data that he has found in Pennsylvania.** He was, by the way, the official genealogist for the most recent Keyser Family Reunion (300th anniversary) in Philadelphia in 1988.” SO, IN SUMMATION, we do seem to have enough information to determine that the **Charles Keyser who married a Miss Shelly** is NOT in our line. That Charles father, Johannes, was born **1721.** Our Charles was born in 1702 [sic, **1726**].”

Julia’s post is simply confirmation of what we already know. “Our” Carl Sebastian “Charles” Kaÿser is NOT Charles Keyser, son of Johannes and Barbara, the husband of “--- Shelly of Philadelphia” and the secondary information about moving to Shenandoah/Page Co., VA is a confusion from “The Keyser family” book. As Dovel’s visit to Philadelphia **predates** the book “The Keyser family: descendants of Dirck Keyser of Amsterdam” by a number of years, *one must conclude Dovel shared this information with C. S. Keyser thus creating the enduring “tangled web” of misinformation which was erroneously inserted into his book about their ancestors of the “same name.”*

Dovel later contradicted this information about the wife of “Charles Keyser” being a Shelly from Philadelphia with information gathered from the actual Kaÿser Family Bibles of Carl Sebastian Kaÿser. Carl “Charles” Kaÿser (Kizer) Junior inherited the Bibles which were taken to Ohio by the family when they moved from Shenandoah Co., VA. “Joseph and David Kizer” in this record are the sons of Carl “Charles” Kaÿser (Kizer) Junior and Elizabeth Baker Kizer. It is certain that the information about “Charles Kaiser” “a native of Wurtemberg near Stuttgart Germany” and his wife “Elizabeth Grossglose also a native of Germany” was taken directly from the Kaÿser Family Bibles and **unknown to Adam Strickler.**

From the Family Record of Isaac Columbus Dovel of Ironton, Ohio – This is a complete typescript of a handwritten family record begun in **1876** by Isaac C. Dovel with later additions by his descendants, including his great-granddaughter Josephine LeSage Snow. The record is written in a book with ruled and numbered pages and bound in red leather. Brackets indicate later additions. On Page 23 it says, “The Grand Father of Joseph and David Kizer, and Great Grandfather of Thos. and Eli Kizer of Clark County Ohio. His name was “Charles Kaiser” Was a native of Wurtemberg [sic] near Stuttgart Germany, his wife’s name was Elizabeth Grossglose also a native of Germany. Charles Kaiser, according to the German Orthography, emigrated to America about the year 1751 or 2. He was a Soldier in Braddoc[k]’s unfortunate campaign in 1775 [note in a later unidentified hand: Isn’t date 1754?], but returned unhurt. This is about all that is on record of their history.” One must point out that the date is either a transcription error or Dovel may have merged the experience of Carl Sebastian Kaÿser or Charles Kyser/Kysar who was conscripted for the French and Indian War and his son Charles Kaÿser (Kizer) Junior who fought in the Revolutionary War.

So it is clear that Adam Strickler's Letter, written in **1892**, is not "Undoubtedly" and not necessarily "the authentic tradition of the family in which he grew up" and as a fellow teacher and one interested in family history as well, I assume he used the "latest" information on the family which he had obtained which **did not include** the Kayser Family Bible in Ohio.

Here is the Letter phrase by phrase with pertinent comments.

"Your great grandfather, whose name was Charles, came to America from Germany as a hired soldier in the service of Great Britain to fight against the French and Indians."

"Charles", who we now know to be Carl Sebastian Kayser, was still "Carl Kayser" on ship *Patience* and Oath of Allegiance records in Philadelphia on 19 Sep 1749. In Lutheran Church records in Lancaster Co., PA in 1750 and 1751 he is Carl Sebastian Kayser. He would have been age 25 years in 1751, able to read and write in German, as can be seen from his signature and his communication to his family in Germany that he had arrived to the "island of Pennsylvania" and was "married in America" which information can be found in the estate record of his mother dated **31 Oct 1755**, meaning he was married prior to that date. It can also be seen in the Estate Inventory in which there are two Bibles written in "Dutch" (the German language "Deutsch") and other books. It is likely that the British writing the records were the ones to Anglicized his first name to Charles which is also the case for his firstborn son. He can be seen in the military record of **02** and **03 Sep 1755** as "Charles Kysar" in Captain William Bethel's district in Frederick Co., VA (now Page Co., VA) where he most likely remained until his death which was *prior* to his Estate Inventory on **28 May 1778**. As a side note, this list also includes Jacob and Joseph Strickler, and John Countz [John Kountz/Counts], the man who settled across the Shenandoah River from him on Hawksbill Creek and whose son Philip Kountz married his daughter Anna Kiser after Charles's death.

That he "*came to America from Germany*" is confirmed in records. Carl Sebastian Kayser was born and baptized the same day, 16 Jan 1726 in Möckmühl, Württemberg, Germany [Möckmühl, Heilbronn, Baden-Württemberg, Germany] to Andreas Kayser and his second wife Anna Catharina (Schuhmacher). Both the estate records of his mother in 1755 in Germany and the ship records of the ship *Patience* confirm his journey from Württemberg, Germany, traveling up the Rhine River Valley, probably in small vessels, to Rotterdam, Netherlands [Rotterdam, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands] where he emigrates from Rotterdam, Netherlands [Rotterdam, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands] on ship *Patience* via Cowes, Isle of Wight, England and from Cowes, Isle of Wight, England to the Port of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, British American Colonies [Philadelphia, Philadelphia Co., PA], landing 19 Sep 1749, the same day that he takes the oath of allegiance to Britain in Philadelphia.

Adam says he came "*as a hired soldier in the service of Great Britain to fight against the French and Indians.*" While it can be seen in the Lutheran Church records of Lancaster Co., PA that Carl was "newly arrived" in early 1750 and had been hired as a servant of Johan Jacob "Jacob" Eichholtz, a butcher whose family was also originally from Württemberg, Germany, and that he is also there in early 1751, this is the last confirmed record of him in Lancaster Co., PA. The story related much later by his son Andrew Kiser of the starving Indian coming for food in Lancaster Co., PA certainly would fit into the period in which he worked in Jacob Eichholtz's butcher shop. [See Kercheval] Jacob kept an inn and butcher shop, making the story more plausible as a place an Indian would come to for food. By Sep 1755, he is recorded in Frederick Co., VA as being court marshalled and fined for missing muster. So while he most certainly entered the service of the British as a foot soldier in the campaign against the French and Indians, and before the defeat of Edward Braddock in July of 1755, the British American Colonial part of the war lasting from 1754 to 1763, it seems that his entry into America was **not based on his being a hired soldier of the British**. He was a skilled laborer who already had a trade, that of butcher, when he arrived in Philadelphia at age 23 years and he may have actually had contact prior to his arrival with fellow Württemberg butchers of the Eichholtz family with whom he is known to be shortly after his arrival. We also know he borrowed money in Germany before he left for his voyage and

new life. So yes, he was a “soldier in the service of Great Britain to fight against the French and Indians” after his arrival, but **not hired to come to America as a soldier**. He was part of the conscripted militia, one of the “Virginia levies” who were used by Braddock to fight in 1754 and 1755. Lord Fairfax, who was given the entire area of the Shenandoah Valley by the British Crown, required militia service from all of his “tenants” who either served or paid fines for not serving. (See notes below)

“After the disastrous battle near Pittsburg, July 9, 1755, he was a butcherer in Braddock’s army.” Carl was *possibly* in this battle on 09 Jul 1755 commonly known as “Braddock’s Defeat”. However, he may have actually served with the Virginia levies in battles directly fighting the Indians and not at Braddock’s Defeat itself. The story told by his son Andrew Kiser to Kercheval became part of the family legend and seems to have been expanded upon by later generations. However, it does fit with his military record in Sep 1755. That he was a “butcherer” in the army is not supported by fact despite his being a butcher by trade. He is in the service of Captain William Bethel, captain of the foot, of Frederick Co., VA in Sep 1755. “Captain of the foot” meaning that Bethel was the Captain of **the foot soldiers in Frederick Co., VA**. I know of no mention of his being a butcher in military records or being assigned to “the Quartermaster’s office” as some have speculated. In fact, outside of 1755, we do not know the length of his service. This story obviously was expanded over the generations.

“He married a Miss Shelly, in Philadelphia...” This is most certainly a paraphrase of the Charles S. Keyser book “The Keyser family : descendants of Dirck Keyser of Amsterdam” which we know **CANNOT be Carl Sebastian Kayser, the German, who arrived 19 Sep 1749 in Philadelphia at age 23 years on the ship Patience**. The combination of the Shelly marriage, which has no date or documentation to Charles Keyser son of Johannes Kayser and Barbara Funk combined with records of Carl Sebastian “Charles” Kayser of the Shenandoah Valley is unfortunately **the poorest kind of unsourced genealogy** which creates a **mythical man out of at least two distinct and obviously different individuals**. “Charles Keyser” son of Johannes Kayser and Barbara Funk was **born in 1751**, one year before the commonly given 1752 birth year of Charles “Keyser” Kysar, Kizer, etc. Junior, son of Carl Sebastian “Charles” Kayser. We also know that **neither of these three “Charles Keyser’s” can be the Carl/Charles Cayser/Kayser who married Mary Schelley/Shelly, daughter of Christian Schelley/Shelly** because they were living in Lancaster Co., PA as a married couple in **1761**. Adam Strickler is clear that Andrew Kiser (Keyser) was born in the Shenandoah Valley in 1758 which is supported by Andrew’s pension record which states that he was born 16 Dec 1758. Clearly the couple **Carl Cayser** and **Mary Schelley** who lived in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1761 are not the same as the German pioneer **Carl Sebastian Kayser** who married after 17 Feb 1751, where he is listed with Jacob Eichholtz as a servant, and prior to his mother’s estate in 1755. According to documentary information he was living in Frederick County, Virginia in 1755, 1758 and 1765. **Carl Cayser** and **Mary Schelley** who lived in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1761 are neither the couple who was part of the Dutch Keyser family nor the German couple who lived in Shenandoah Valley, now Page Valley. Obviously it was a common name at the time in both German and Dutch families of British Colonial America!

The second part of the sentence, “*and came to our Valley and lived on Mill Creek*”, is curiously **unsubstantiated in any property record** and the only place where Mill Creek is mentioned in association with the Kayser/Kiser/Keyser family, however, it was the home place of the Strickler family and is possibly a mistake by Adam Strickler from his early memories of his own father. The property Carl Sebastian Kayser purchased as Charles Kyser was on the northwest side of the South Branch of the Shenandoah River at the mouth of the Hawksbill Creek, not near Mill Creek which is further down the River. Records of him in the “Valley” by 1755, and the Indenture of Lewis and Mathias Rhinehart for land on Hawksbill Creek in 1765, confirm his presence there. His residence prior to the land purchase *could have been* Mill Creek, but to date there is *no record of him living there*. *The Strickler’s, however, did live near Mill Creek* and in later generations so did some of the Kiser’s also written as Keyser’s. There was another Keyser family in the Valley, in addition to the descendants of Carl Sebastian “Charles” Kayser,

and the information about the two families has been confused and combined over time and may be the source of some of the misinformation.

"Your great grandfather bought property near the mouth of the Hawksbill, built the old Keyser house, lived and died in it. The house was built in about the year 1765." While we do know that the property deed was finally obtained in 1765, it is quite possible the Kayser Fort cellar home was built prior to that time. These statements are backed by records and other books.

"His age and death I cannot give any account of, but he was an old man, and died about the year 1777." The Estate Inventory of "Charles Kizer, dec'd" on 28 May 1778, taken for the 1778 May Term Court of Shenandoah Co., VA, indicates he most likely died in the spring of 1778 before the 28 May 1778 date. Court records indicate his wife must have predeceased him as the estate administration is given to his eldest son Charles Kizer (Jr.) and ten living children are noted as heirs, with the estate to be equally divided among them. If the widow had been living she would have been given a "widow's portion" of the estate during her lifetime. We know from his German birth record that if he died in early 1778, he was age 52 years at his death. *The idea that he was very old comes from the erroneous birth year of 1702 which was oft repeated with no known source.* We do not know his cause of death but we can assume it was sudden and unexpected because, although literate, he made no Last Will and Testament.

"His children were as follows: Charles, Andrew and John---the girls were Anna Koontz, Mary Kelley, Mrs. Austin and Kate---she was never married." Here Strickler names 7 of the ten children. 1. Carl Kayser (II) also known as Charles Kizar/Kizer, Jr.; 2. Andreas Kayser also known as Andrew Kiser and Andrew Keyser; 3. Johannes Kayser also known as John Kiser or Keyser; and 4. Joseph Kayser also known as Joseph Kizer or Kiser, who went to Russell Co., VA before its formation and signed a petition to create the new county in Dec 1785, and whose name was apparently unknown to Adam Strickler, are known sons of Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser. The names Michael and David have both been proposed for another son of Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser, but Michael Keyser of Rockingham is not a part of this family and David and Joseph are the names of Charles Kizar Jr.'s sons. Charles, Jr. was obviously his father's namesake. Andrew was named for his grandfather Andreas or his uncle of same name. John was named for his uncle Johannes Georg, also known as HansJerg. Joseph, a common biblical name, was probably named for someone in his mother's family. The "girls" were 5. Anna Kayser or Kiser who married Philip Kountz and may have been named for her grandmother Anna Catharina; 6. Maria Kayser also known as Mary Kiser who married Luke Kelly or Kelley was most likely named for her aunt Maria Dorothea; 7. Esther Kayser or Kiser, who married George Austin, had a common biblical name and was named probably for someone in her mother's family; 8. Elizabeth Kayser or Kiser who married Henry Hurst was probably her mother's namesake and is not mentioned by Strickler; and 9. Catharine or Catharina "Kate" Kiser may have also been named for her paternal grandmother. The tenth child of Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser, still unidentified, may have died after the estate records of 1778 and before adulthood.

"Charles lived and died at the mouth of the Hawksbill and was buried at the old Keyser graveyard. He had two sons, David and Joseph. They sold out and went west many years ago." This paragraph refers to Charles Kizar, Jr. and his sons David and Joseph. Charles Kizar, Jr. was born in 1752 according to the headstone reading, and died of yellow fever in Aug or Sep of 1796. Four of his children, Charles (III), Elizabeth, and two children whose names were too illegible to be identified, also died of yellow fever in 1796. This left his wife Elizabeth Baker Kizar, sons David and Joseph, and daughters Catherine Kizer who married Christian Miller, Mary Kizer who married Samuel Williams, and Margaret "Peggy" Kizer. They moved to Ohio and used the spelling Kizer. No further information on Peggy.

The remainder of the information in the Strickler Letter about Andrew Kiser "your grandfather" has not been annotated and is for the most part correct.

an exemplary member until his death. He was a strong Democrat of the Jefferson and Jackson stamp, and from him I imbibed my Democratic principles without wavering. I have never given any other vote in my life except a Democratic vote. Your grandfather was a great provider for his family, and abundance of all the necessaries of life for both white and colored. He was handy with tools, coopering and shoemaking. He was a splendid marksman and fond of a gun as long as he lived. He learned to read and write and keep his accounts without a teacher. He was a kind stepfather to me and all the Keyseres treat me with marked respect wherever I see them. Show this to cousin Sudie Brumback with my love to her, please write to me as soon as you get this. I am more poorly today than usual, bad cough and trouble in my lungs. I was 80 years old the 5th of last March. Goodbye.

ADAM STRICKLER."

Isaac C. Dovel, son of No. 11, a great grandson of Charles Keyser, compiled some records of the family in 1876, from which the following is copied:

"Charles Keyser, father of Andrew Keyser, Sr., and John Keyser, was born in Germany in the year 1702, came to America while under the British Government. He was a butcher by trade; had no relations in this country; married a lady in Philadelphia by the name of Shelly. He died in 1774 at the age of 72 years. On the 9th of October 1876, the grave was opened by Peter and Henry Keyser, sons of Andrew Keyser, Jr., in the presence of Charles Keyser, one of the grandsons, and I. C. Dovel, Capt. Joseph Keyser, son of Noah Keyser, Joseph W. Keyser, son of Peter Keyser, and Uphemia Richardson, daughter of Andrew Keyser, Jr. The skull, teeth and hair were found to be in a wonderful state of preservation after having been buried 102 years."

Peter J. Keyser, No. 57, who is now (1932) probably the oldest surviving member of the family, recalls when the grave was opened, as above related, and said that it was done purely through curiosity.

The following also is copied from the notes of Isaac C. Dovel: "The grandfather of Joseph and David Kiser, and great grandfather of Thomas and Eli Kiser of Clark County, Ohio, was named Charles Kaiser. He was a native of Wurtemberg, near Stuttgart, Germany. His wife's name was Elizabeth Grossgloss, also a native of Germany. Charles Kiser, according to the German Orthography, emigrated to America in 1751 or 2. He was a soldier in Braddock's unfortunate campaign in 1755, but returned

Sharon's notations:

From the compiled records of Isaac C. Dovel, 1876. Note that these predate the book by Charles Shearer Keyser. (See note below from 01 Oct 1877).

"Charles Keyser, father of Andrew Keyser, Sr. and John Keyser, was born in Germany in the year 1702, came to America while under the British Government." It is unknown when the surname Kayser, which is seen in records as Kyser, Kysar, Kizer and Kizar began to be spelled "Keyser", as this spelling is found in NO record of the immigrant Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser. The erroneous spelling "Charles Keyser" and the erroneous birth year of 1702, while even being used today by some, is the source of many misconceptions and makes NO SENSE with the rest of the facts of his life, except to say that living to age 72 years would have seemed reasonable. The source of this birth year is *unknown*. However, it would mean that *an unmarried 47 year old man arrived in America and married a woman named "Shelly" of Philadelphia and began a family, entered a war as a 53 year old, and pioneered in the Shenandoah Valley and built a house as a 63 year old man, dying 9 years later (in 1774)*. As Colonial America was under British rule until after the Revolution, this "fact" seems irrelevant. It is

unknown why Dovel only mentions two of the sons Andrew and John. "He was a butcher by trade;" is accurate, "had no relations in this country" is accurate, "married a lady in Philadelphia by the name of Shelly", confirmed erroneous in previous notes, "died in 1774" is incorrect, as well as the age of 72 years which is calculated from the birth year of 1702. Note that the story of the grave opening says he had been buried "102 years" in 1876. As his death and burial was more accurately 1778, the grave was opened after 98 years. The real question is, was this actually the grave of Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser? If so, was it clearly marked before? Was there a headstone at the disinterment? Today there is a

flat marker saying "Charles Keyser 1702 1778." Next to it is one saying "ELIZABETH KEYSER ..." the dates being broken off.

The second "notes of Isaac C. Dovel" seem much more accurate. Charles' surname is spelled "Kaiser" and his birthplace is accurately stated as "Wurtemberg" [Württemberg], near Stuttgart, Germany. Stuttgart is the largest nearby city to Möckmühl, the birthplace of Carl Sebastian Kayser.

"His wife's name was Elizabeth Grossgloss, also a native of Germany." This is the first time we see an actual name for the wife of Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser. It is specific and gives first and last names and birthplace. Research has shown birth records of Württemberg, Germany to include the surname Großglaus (Grossglaus). If Carl was in contact with the Eichholtz family of butchers from his home province of Württemberg in Germany when he arrived, it is not without reason to think that he met a woman from there as well. It is even possible he knew her family in Germany. It is also more logical that he married a German Lutheran woman from his home province, than that he married a Swiss Mennonite woman whose family (Schelley/Shelly) had been in Lancaster Co., PA for a generation. Carl was a soldier and the family later owned slaves, which was contrary to Mennonite thinking. German Estate records of his mother in 1755 state that he was married in America. Money would be sent to him yearly by his brother until his inheritance was paid in full. The man who represented his part in the estate of his mother was the same man who represented him in his father's estate as a minor under age 25 years while he was still in Germany. He was obviously in touch with his family in Germany and would have been informed of others from his area who were in America. The community of Germans in Shenandoah Co., VA was a strong group who intermarried and spoke German for several generations.

"Charles Kiser [also transcribed Kaiser], according to the German Orthography, emigrated to America in 1751 or 2." Note the spelling of the name. German Orthography means the spelling dictates the pronunciation, meaning Kayser is pronounced like Kiser. The arrival date is a few years off, but close and is more likely his marriage year than his year of immigration. He immigrated 19 Sep 1749 and was in Lancaster Co., PA in 1750 and 1751. He was in the Shenandoah Valley before 1755.

"He was a soldier in Braddock's unfortunate campaign in 1755, but returned unhurt." This seems to be the most enduring "fact" in the family legend of Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser. As stated above, we know he was a soldier in 1755 and shortly following the Braddock defeat he was located in Frederick Co., VA with others in his "foot" or company and with whom he remained for the rest of his lifetime. One might assume that "returned unhurt" means that he returned to Frederick Co., VA (now Page Co., VA) where his family resided. Once again, this also would mean that he could NOT be the Carl/Charles Cayser/Kayser who was a resident of Lancaster Co., PA in 1761 and married to Mary Shelly/Schelley. The confusion between these two men is at the root of the present controversy of who married Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser. Mary Shelly was the daughter of Christian Schelley/Shelly and Magdalena Kauffman. Christian was a Swiss Mennonite whose family had immigrated to America in the previous generation and he owned land in Mannheim Township, Lancaster Co., PA. As Charles Shearer Keyser shows in his history of the Dutch Keyser's, they were also Mennonite and fled religious persecution in Holland, but if his dates are correct, we have at least three "Charles Keyser's".

"This is about all on record of their history." This statement has since been proven untrue, but was true for the information he had at the time, however, is also curiously devoid of the source of those records unless we factor in that the information came from descendants of Carl Charles "Keyser" Kysar, Kizer, etc. Junior in Ohio and conclude that **these records came directly from the Kayser Family Bible** which seems to be the most logical source and although Pritchard does not "connect the dots" conclusively, he does indicate that he believes this to be the case. (Page 179) The remainder of the paragraph about the "Large Dutch Bibles" noted in the Estate Inventory of Charles Kizer, deceased, in May of 1778, is most likely accurate. It is unfortunate that these Bibles are currently not located nor photographed and shared. In this case "Dutch" is a reference to "Deutsch", meaning the Bibles were written in the German language. As we know Carl was literate in German, this would make sense.

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unhurt. This is about all on record of their history." The source of this information is not stated, but it would seem to have come from the descendants of Charles Keyser, Jr., who, as eldest son, inherited the paternal homestead and probably obtained, with it, the two "Large Dutch Bibles" mentioned in his father's inventory; and these Bibles may have gone to Ohio with the sons of Charles Keyser, Jr., in which event this information may be nearest the truth.

The presence of Isaac C. Dovel in the Lower Valley at that time is further indicated by the following entry copied from his notes:

"Ironton, Ohio, October 15, 1877.

This day, one year ago, I arrived home from my visit to the Centennial Exposition at the City of Philadelphia, and visit to my friends and relations in the Shenandoah and Page counties, Virginia.

I. C. DOVEL."

During this visit he probably consulted and copied records from such family bibles as he found, for his notes show that he must have seen the Bibles or other records of the immediate families of Andrew Keyser, Sr., and his son Peter Keyser, if not others. Mr. Dovel's conclusion that Charles Keyser had no relations in the United States, flatly contradicts the genealogy embraced in "The Keyser Family" next referred to; and the year 1702, as the date of his birth, renders it impossible for Charles Keyser to have descended from Peter Dirck Keyser, who heads that family.

The bicentennial reunion of the Keyser family in America was held on October 10, 1888, at the old Mennonite Meeting House in Germantown, which had then become part of Philadelphia; and a narrative of the proceedings, with a genealogy of the family, prepared by Charles S. Keyser, a Philadelphia lawyer, forms the contents of a very attractive and interesting book entitled *The Keyser Family*, that issued from the press of Wm. F. Fell & Co., of Philadelphia, in 1889. On page 153 of the book it is stated that Johannes Keyser married "Barbara Funk (circa 1744)" and had a son: "Charles, m. ----- Shelly, Philadelphia, moved from Germ. to Page Co., Va., prior to the Revolution." This was cer-

to; and the year 1702, as the date of his birth, renders it impossible for Charles Keyser to have descended from Peter Dirck Keyser, who heads the family." I would add that his birth in Germany, arrival in America in 1749, and birth year of 1726 still do the same, even if 1702 is incorrect as his birth year.

The key phrase in the genealogy is "Charles, m. ---- Shelly, Philadelphia, moved from Germ. to Page Co., Va., prior to the Revolution." Firstly, this Charles is Charles Keyser son of Johannes Keyser, a Dutchman whose family had been in America for some time, and his wife Barbara Funk to whom he was married about 1744 (shown to be incorrect) and had a son Charles. Secondly, this Charles being born about 1745 at earliest (shown to be 1751), if these dates are to be relied on, would have been age 16 years in 1761 (actually age 10 years) and therefore could not be either the Carl/Charles of Page Co., VA or the Carl/Charles of Lancaster Co., PA. This makes the entire sentence irrelevant to us and to the solution of who married a Shelly in Philadelphia. Obviously there was more than one Carl or Charles Keyser or Kayser and more than one woman named Shelly in Pennsylvania who could have married a man of that name. The book was issued 13 years after Dovel's trip.

Sharon's notations:

"Ironton, Ohio, October 1, 1877. This day, one year ago, I arrived home from my visit to the Centennial Exposition at the City of Philadelphia, and my visit to my friends and relations in Shenandoah and Page counties, Virginia. I. C. DOVEL." This note explains the above date of 1876 for the "compiled records of Isaac C. Dovel". One sees that he shared his own family records and also gathered information in Philadelphia from C. S. Keyser as well as meeting with family in Virginia where he shared the "new" information and gathered recollections in Virginia. It should be noted that this is the **SAME TIME** that the curious family members opened the grave of their ancestor Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser and disseminated the **incorrect, yet enduring** "facts" about him. It seems that later he obtained the other information in Ohio which explains the differing notes on the "two wives" of "Charles Keyser" and "Charles Kiser". As genealogists gathering family history, one collects ALL information before sorting through it to see which is correct. In the next paragraphs, Prichard debunks the "The Keyser Family" genealogy and shows it as being inaccurate for Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser and for the Dutch "Keyser" family. First, he states correctly that "Mr. Dovel's conclusion that Charles Keyser had no relations in the United States, flatly contradicts the genealogy embraced in "The Keyser Family" next referred

Everything we know about the Carl/Charles Cayser/Kayser who was married to Mary Schelley/Shelly, daughter of Christian Schelley/Shelly, is from the Deeds regarding the land given by Christian and his wife Magdalena to their son Jacob Schelley who predeceased his father. His father gave the rest of his land to his son-in-law who seems to have also died about the same time. The children of Christian sign in 1761 a document stating that they have received money for their portion of their brother Jacob's land from their sister Elizabeth who purchases it from them. On this document is the signature of Carl/Charles Cayser/Kayser and his wife Mary (Schelley/Shelly). They do not appear in any other document regarding the estate of Mary's father. The document states that all participants are residents of Lancaster Co., PA. It is impossible to know the ages of this couple, when they were married, or anything further about them at this time.

However, what we do know is that "our" Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser was in Frederick Co., VA (Dunmore, Shenandoah, now Page Co., VA) *before* 09 July 1755, was conscripted or "levied" by the British in the "Virginia levies" to fight in the French and Indian Wars and may have been present at what became known as "Braddock's Defeat" and that he returned to Frederick Co., VA (Dunmore, Shenandoah, now Page Co., VA) *before* Sep 1755 at which time he is court marshalled for missing muster. Although there is no known support for this "fact" stated by Adam Strickler, it is *possible* that he may have settled on Mill Creek in the Valley of Shenandoah, and later purchased by indenture the property along the Shenandoah River South Branch at the mouth of the Hawksbill Creek between the river and the Massanutten Mountains where he built a home in 1765 and died before May 1778.

Once again, I conclude with utter confidence that the association of our Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser with a daughter of a Dr. Shelly of Philadelphia is **completely unfounded and erroneous** and an obvious mistake! The further complication of taking an erroneous and obviously incorrect genealogy and trying to associate that mistaken fact with another person with the surname Shelly who married a Carl Cayser, when none of the other facts are the same, is at the very least adding fuel to a false ancestry already fraught with problems and at the worst bordering on the insanity of trying to fit a square peg in a round hole. It is not even a certainty that a Charles Keyser of the Dutch lineage actually married a Shelly, daughter of a Dr. Shelly of Philadelphia.

We can also say with confidence that **John Keyser in that lineage and his descendants** do not belong there!

Continued on next page

tainly the same Charles Keyser to whom Adam Strickler and Isaac C. Dovel referred. Continuing its record of Charles Keyser the book states that he had two sons named Joseph and John besides two other sons whose names were unknown, one of whom left a son, "Charles, b. 1793, and living in 1889." This may have been Andrew Keyser's son, Charles, No. 21, b. 2 Sept. 1806; d. 18 Oct. 1891. Other discrepancies are as follows:

(1) Records of St. Michael's and Zion churches, in Philadelphia, Penn., show that the marriage of Johannes Keyser and Barbara Funk occurred on the 20 April 1747. *The Keyser Family* states that Charles Keyser was a child of this marriage. Adam Strickler states that the same Charles Keyser was "butcherer in Braddock's army" in 1755, when he could not have exceeded seven years of age if both statements are correct. Charles Keyser's son, Andrew, was born the 16 December, 1758, according to his own affidavit which he filed for revolutionary war pension. Andrew could not, therefore, have been a grandson of Johannes Keyser and Barbara Funk, whose marriage occurred on the 20 Apr. 1747.

(2) *The Keyser Family* states that Christopher Keyser, No. 10, married an Urner. His daughter, Susan Rebecca, No. 36, married Martin Urner, but he married Ann Brumback according to the statement of their granddaughter, Carrie Clinedinst, No. 85.

(3) *The Keyser Family* says that Charles Keyser "moved from Germ. to Page Co., Va." By "Germ." is evidently meant Germantown, which is now part of the City of Philadelphia. Kercheval's *History of the Valley*, 4th Ed., page 37, relates an incident in relation to which "Major Andrew Keyser also informed the author that an Indian once called at his father's in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, appeared to be much agitated, and asked for something to eat. After refreshing himself he was asked what disturbed him. He replied, 'The Southern Indians have killed my whole nation.'" This indicates clearly that Charles Keyser lived in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, before he settled in what is now Page County, Virginia.

The antecedents of Charles Keyser may have originated in the same Bavarian family as the one delineated in the book above referred to, ~~but his parents were certainly not Johannes Keyser and Barbara Funk.~~

Sharon's notations:

"This was certainly the same Charles Keyser to whom Adam Strickler and Isaac C. Dovel referred." (See above) The explanation is only relevant to the marriage of Charles Keyser to a woman named Shelly in Philadelphia as the other information is detailed afterwards. The Charles referred to as "Charles, b. 1793, and living in 1889." **is NOT a grandchild of Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser**, but might be of Charles Keyser, son of Johannes and Barbara as we can see the dates do not fit otherwise. The record of Johannes and Barbara's marriage as 20 Apr 1747 puts their Charles into an even younger age than the book notes, making it once again impossible for this to be Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser. It also points out the shoddy research of the author. Skipping the further explanations we come to the reference in Kercheval's "History of the Valley" which tells the story in which "an Indian once called at his father's in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, appeared to be much agitated, and asked for something to eat..." This is the basis of "proof" for some that the German young man, Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser, is the same man as Carl/Charles Cayser/Kayser who is married to Mary Schelley/Shelly, daughter of Christian, and living in Lancaster Co., PA in 1761. As stated above, Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser was in

Lancaster Co., PA in 1750 and 1751 as per church records when he worked for Jacob Eichholtz the butcher as a "servant". For all we know, this incident may have been the one that prompted him to move on to the Shenandoah Valley, where we find him a married man in 1755! It was obviously a pivotal and retold story. This is also part of why it is impossible that he is living in Lancaster Co., PA in 1761 and married to Mary Schelley/Shelly.

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The only doubtful statement in the letter of Adam Strickler appears to be that Charles Keyser came to America "as a hired soldier in the service of Great Britain to fight against the French and Indians." That war began in 1754 when Washington was sent with Col. Fry to the west of the Alleghenies with a small army. On July 3, 1754, they encountered the French and surrendered Fort Necessity. Thereupon, in order to repel the French, England sent over General Braddock, with two regiments of British regulars, who landed in Virginia on the 19 Feb. 1755. There is no record of any hired soldiers being imported for this war before that time. If, therefore, the oldest son of Charles Keyser was born in 1752, as seems to appear from the indistinct and well worn inscription on his grave stone, then the marriage of Charles Keyser must have occurred some three or four years before the French and Indian war began.

The doubt suggested in the preceding paragraph does not, in any way, impeach Adam Strickler's statement of Charles Keyser's connection with Braddock's army. Mr. Waddell, in his *Annals of Augusta County*, said that Braddock's "command consisted of two regiments of regulars, augmented by some Virginia levies selected for the purpose; two companies of 'hatchet men'; six of rangers, from different provinces, and one troop of light horse. The whole composed an army of nearly twenty-five hundred men." The six companies of "rangers, from different provinces" may have included one from Pennsylvania with Charles Keyser in it; or he may have settled in Virginia before that time, and gone with the "Virginia levies selected for the purpose."

By deed of 6 Apr. 1765, recorded in Frederick County, Va., deed book No. 10, page 248, Lewis Rhinehart and Mathias Rhinehart of Frederick County, Va., conveyed unto Charles Keyser, of the same place, a parcel of land on the South Fork of the Shenandoah, being the lower end of two tracts of land granted to Mathias Rhinehart by deed of 8 Feb. 1764, from the Proprietor's Office of the Northern Neck of Virginia.

Judge E. J. Sutherland, of Clintwood, Va., has sent the following which he obtained from the records of Shenandoah County: "On May 28, 1778, the Shenandoah County Court appointed Bryant Breeding, Martin Comer, Matthew Mattocks and Peter Ruffner to appraise the estate of 'Charles Kizer, dec'd,' and

Sharon's notations:

"The only doubtful statement" of Strickler's Letter is certainly not true, particularly in light of the debunking of the Keyser and Shelly connections. However, I agree that Carl was not hired and shipped to America as a soldier, but conscripted or levied after his arrival. It is quite certain from the 1755 military record of "Charles Kysar" in Frederick Co., VA that he was already living there at the time and was one of the "Virginia levies" used by Braddock as described by Waddell. I find it curious that Prichard is once again trying to place him in Pennsylvania as there was no "new life" possible for him there as there was in the Shenandoah Valley, a place he could hope to own his own land, hunt and make a good life among fellow Germans.

I take exception to the use of "Charles Keyser" in this book for the deed of 06 Apr 1765. The Indenture clearly spells the surname as "Kyser" throughout the document.

The Estate Inventory for Charles Kizer, dec'd, names Matthew Mattocks as one of the appraisers. Matthew was married to Eve, the eldest daughter of John Kountz/Counts, who lived across the Hawksbill Creek from the Kayser's and who was also in the military records of 1755 with him in the same place. "John Countz" paid a double fine for missing two musters and

most likely was not at Braddock's Defeat. There is no family legend of his being there. Later, as the Valley became more civilized, Joseph Kiser, son of Charles, Sr. moved west to what is now Russell Co., VA as did many of the Kountz/Counts family and other Kiser's. Philip Kountz and Anna remained on the Hawksbill Creek farm of John Kountz/Counts, where Philip lived his entire life. Strickler wrote, "Charles [Jr.] lived and died at the mouth of the Hawksbill and was buried at the old Keyser graveyard." This statement and the 1752 birth year on Charles Kizer, Jr.'s gravestone may indicate that his parents were

in Frederick/Dunmore/Shenandoah Co., VA as early as 1752. Philip, born about 1764, was certainly there his entire life.

Notes on Mead Relations, Page 182:

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the following appraisement was made and recorded in Will Book "A" page 179:

"Shenandoah Set—In Obedience to an order of May Court 1778 to us Directed we the Subscribers being first sworn have meet and appraised the Estate of Charles Kisers in Ready money, which is as followeth

To a waggon and Lockchain & Breast Chain.....	£ 70	" 0	" 0
To Eight Sheep.....	16	0	0
To Twelve Geese.....	1	16	0
To an Iron Spade & Shovel.....	15	0	0
To a Dung fork hay fork and Turnep chopper.....	1	10	0
To three old axes.....	1	0	0
To five hoes and a mottock.....	3	0	0
To a maul and two wedges.....	18	0	0
To two ploughs and two clevises.....	3	0	0
To a cutting Box.....	1	5	0
To three steers & a Bull.....	16	0	0
To Eight cows.....	52	0	0
To four calves & a small hide.....	5	10	0
To Two mens Saddles.....	10	0	0
To Two pair Iron Traices and Two leather collars.....	6	0	0
To Two Bells & Straps.....	1	0	0
To a parcel of Iron Lumber.....	2	10	0
To two forging pans.....	2	0	0
To two Iron pots and one pare of Iron hooks.....	3	15	0
To one pot.....	10	0	0
To two Horses and a mare.....	135	0	0
To a sorrel Colt.....	40	0	0
To two pare of Iron hobbles.....	1	0	0
To two wheat sives.....	17	0	0
To three Little Wheales.....	3	0	0
To a smoothing Iron.....	6	0	0
To half Bushel.....	5	0	0
To a Tin Lanthorn.....	15	0	0
To a parcell of Shoemakers tools.....	12	0	0
To a Candlestick Lamp & a Gimlet and a fire Steal.....	10	0	0
To a peper mill and Box.....	5	0	0
To two Large Dutch Bibles.....	7	5	0
To a parcell of Books.....	4	12	0
To two Glass Bottles.....	6	0	0
To a Table.....	1	5	0
To an Iron Stove.....	8	0	0
To two punch Bowls.....	5	0	0
To a Small Trunk.....	12	0	0
To three Earthern Jars and a Bresh.....	1	3	0

Sharon's notations:

The inventory of the estate is very informative in that it gives us a picture of a home and farm that were very self-sufficient and modern for the day. This family was not poor and may have been considered well-off.

The range of tools and equipment shows Charles Kiser to be a skilled workman at many tasks beyond what we know of him as a hunter, cattleman and butcher. He also has a library, including the "Dutch Bibles" which confirms his literacy in German. There are farming tools, blacksmithing tools, lumberman tools, stock animals and farm animals, a wagon and tack, leather hides, leather-working and shoemaker tools, candle-making tools, lanterns, a very complete kitchen with iron stove, furniture, bedding, a few personal care items (three Earthen Jars and a Bresh (Brush)), sewing tools, butchering tools and equipment, sheep shearing and wool making tools, carpentry tools, and etc. The picture that is drawn is one of a vital man who is skilled and productive with a good future ahead of him.

We do not know his cause of death, but we can conclude that, because he was a literate man and died intestate, whatever it was that killed Charles Kiser, Sr. came unexpectedly.

There are also notable items missing from this inventory, such as clothing, firearms, knives and any mention of slaves. I know of no records of Charles Kiser, Sr. having slaves, but we know that his sons did. As a hunter and butcher, Charles, Sr. would certainly have had knives and firearms.

THE KEYSER FAMILY 183

To a pair Sheep Shares two pair Taylors & a pair of Sivers	1	0	0
To one Bed and furniture.....	10	0	0
To one Bed and furniture.....	3	0	0
To a pare Stillards.....	2	5	0
To one chest.....	1	0	0
To one Woolen Wheel and two pare of old wool cards.....	3	0	0
To two new feather Beds.....	14	1	0
To two hackels.....	4	10	0
To one crout cutting Box.....	1	0	0
To two feather beds.....	8	0	0
To one watering can.....		12	0
To one Womans Saddle.....	1	5	0
To three scythes and two cradles.....	3	6	0
To a froe a Butchers file and hook.....	2	2	0
To a Dough trough.....		10	0
To three hundred and thirty pounds of Raw hemp.....	16	10	0
To four old sickles and a chizzels.....		12	0
To three Dishes one Bason & Eleven spoons.....	5	0	0
To Six plates and two small Basons.....	2	8	0
To a parcel of Tinware.....	1	0	0
To three Old Ladles and a pare of flesh forks.....		10	0
To Old Wooden Ware.....		6	0
To a Salt Box.....		4	0
To a Cag.....		7	0
To a churn & two casks.....	1	0	0
To a Broken Table.....		5	0
To three chairs.....		15	0
To a Shear and Coulter and Two Cleavises.....	5	10	0
To four head of cattle.....	16	0	0

£509 "15 "0

MARTIN COMER
MATTHEW MATTOCKS
PETER RUFFNER

There is Ten children £50"19"6 Each Share.

At a Court held for the County of Shanando the 28th Day of August 1778 This Inventory and appraisement of the Estate of Charles Kyser Deceased was Returned and ordered to be Recorded

Teste

THOMAS MARSHALL, C. S. C."

Charles Kizer was granted administration of the estate, and gave bond in the sum of £1,000 on the 28 May 1778, with Frederick Commer and John Hastins as sureties. Keyser and Commer signed the bond in German.

Sharon's notations:

I should note here that no firearms are inventoried. Whether that is simply a function of the sons having already appropriated them, or the family not owning a firearm, which seems unlikely, they are not itemized. Clothing and other personal items are not itemized either. This inventory is more about the farm and house. Another note should be made about slaves. We know that there is a slave graveyard within the Keyser graveyard and that there were slave quarters behind the house. However, slaves would be a valuable commodity and would likely be mentioned if there were any. It is probable that this practice occurred in the family after the Revolutionary War. In previous notes I have said Carl Sebastian "Charles" Kayser AKA: Charles Kiser, Sr., was a soldier and possibly a slave owner. However, this inventory does not reflect either use of firearms or owning of slaves. The inventory was geared to the division of property among the children and how much Charles, Jr. would owe each of his siblings when he remained on the property. "There is Ten children £50"19"6 Each Share." Nine of the ten children have been positively

identified. Either one died before adulthood or we simply have not confirmed records of this child. It may be helpful to estimate the ages of the children in May 1778. Charles Kizer, Jr. was age 26 years. He is believed to have married Elizabeth Baker in 1776, meaning he would be married with a child when his father died. Catharina 'Kate' was probably born about 1754 but this is not confirmed and she may have been much younger. Joseph Kiser was born about 1756, making him age 22 years. Andrew was born 16 Dec 1758, making him age 19 years. Mary was born in 1760 making her age 17 years. Elizabeth was born in 1762 making her age 15 years. Anna was born about 1765 making her about age 13 years. John was born 11 Nov 1769, making him age 9 years. Esther was born about 1770 making her age 8 years.

some records of the Keyser Family in which he included the following list of births in the Rhinehart Family, viz:

- "Sally Rhinehart, born Dec. 17, 1770.
- George Rhinehart, born Dec. 2, 1772.
- Peggy Rhinehart, born Sept. 24, 1774.
- Caty Rhinehart, born March 13, 1776.
- Dolly Rhinehart, born Jan. 13, 1778.
- Michael Rhinehart, born Dec. 6, 1779.
- Elizabeth Rhinehart, born Dec. 10, 1781."

The foregoing were children of Mathias Rhinehart according to letter of Oct. 21, 1916, written by Charles Keyser Urner, son of No. 36, to John Trumbo, of Hanging Rock, Ohio.

4. ANNA KEYSER, m. 22 Aug. 1785, Philip Koontz, in Shenandoah County, Va., the ceremony being performed by Simon Harr. With their marriage bond is filed a consent note by "John Coutts," father of Philip, with a statement that the "friends of Anna Kisser are willing that she should marry Philip Coutts." Judge E. J. Sutherland has supplied the following additional data: "The marriage bond is erroneously made in the name of Philip Coutts. Jacob Rersneck (Rasnick) who married Philip's sister, Mary, was his surety on the bond. . . . On — 1802, John Counts and his wife Magdalene of Russell County deeded to Philip Counts of Shenandoah County 75 acres of land on the west side of Hawksbill Creek, this being a part of a tract of land conveyed to the said John Countz by Christian Bumgarner by deed dated — 1765. By his will, dated April 3, 1802, and probated April 27, 1803, in Russell County, John Counts willed to 'my son Philip one shilling.' On January 25, 1808, Christian (Christley) Bumgarner and wife, Mary, deeded to Philip Countz 2¾ acres on the west bank of the Hawksbill, adjoining said Countz' land, the witnesses being Jacob Rinker, George Britlan, Andrew Keyser and Noah Keyser. On October 16, 1817, Philip Counts (Kountz) (and wife Anna is mentioned but did not sign) deeded to Robert Carter 79 acres on the west side of Hawksbill, a part of the tract deeded by John Countz and Magdalene to Philip Countz. The Federal Census for Shen-

Sharon's notations:

Beginning at 4. ANNA KEYSER, Line by line, the first note is that in **no record** is Anna known as "Keyser" or "Koontz" but only as Kiser and Kountz. The books "Forerunners" and "Meads Relations" list her as such and these are copied in other genealogies by other authors. "ANNA KEYSER" did not marry "Philip Koontz" but Anna Kiser did marry "Philip Coutts" who is Philip Kountz (Counts). Philip Koontz and Philip Kountz (Counts) are two different men and belong to two distinct families. Philip Koontz, who is given the same approximate birth year of 1764 as Philip Kountz (Counts), is seen in the records of Barbour County, Virginia (WV) and was married to Mary Heflebower and Barbara Barnhouse and had at least 13 children some of whom are known and eleven named as certain according to Violet Gadd Coonts in her book "The Western Waters: Early Settlers of Eastern Barbour County West Virginia" pages 282-290. At least one other Philip Koontz, approximately ten years older than Philip Kountz (Counts), is living in Rockingham Co., VA. As far as can be determined the two Philip Koontz's are not related to each other and neither are related to Philip Kountz

(Counts) who married Anna Keyser (Kiser). Anna Kiser married Philip Kountz, written as Coutts throughout the marriage record, on 22 Aug 1785 in the Parish of Beckford and county seat of Woodstock in Shenandoah Co., VA. There are four pages to the marriage record: the title page and marriage bond, front and back, and the marriage statement of Anna and the signature page to the marriage statement. Simon Harr who performed the marriage was a Lutheran lay minister and teacher and worked in Strasburg and Woodstock. The statement on page 186 that, "With their marriage bond is

filed a consent note by “John Coutts,” father of Philip, with a statement that “friends of Anna Kisser are willing that she should marry Philip Coutts.” is not verbatim but *an interpretation of the marriage statement* of Anna. Sutherland’s statement that the name is misspelled is correct. In the book by Elihu Jasper Sutherland and Hetty Swindall Sutherland, “SOME DESCENDANTS of JOHN COUNTS of GLADE HOLLOW (Southwest Virginia)” which was published in 1978, page 296, Sutherland also mentions the “certificate” for Anna Kiser but transcribes it as “*Shenandoah* County and beckford *Virginy Philip Coutts* and *Anna Kiser* is a go to git marred and his father *John Coutts* and mother is will that they *should git mared And Anna Kiser* friends is all will that *she shd* get mared to *Sad Coutts* August 22 1785.” which is quite different from the verbatim transcription below and implies that it is John Counts Senior, Philip’s father who gives “consent” for Anna to marry or witnesses that Anna is willing to marry Philip. (See below) However, Anna signs her own marriage permission by mark as Any Kiser meaning she was 14 years or above at the marriage date. It is more likely that the John “Coutts” who signs with her by mark is her friend and new brother-in-law John Counts Junior rather than her new father-in-law John Counts Senior as he could witness the document at age 16 or above and was probably 19 or 20 years old. Her brother Andrew Kiser signs the document as testator. Neither Philip nor Anna needed anyone to give them permission to marry, but the marriage bond was needed and a witness and testament to Anna’s desire to marry Philip. This was a family affair with family members signing as witnesses to the marriage bond and Anna’s statement of consent.

In the marriage record the “long s” (long, medial, or descending s – “j”) is used in both the text and Jacob’s signature. This was a commonly used letter symbol at this time. It should also be noted that this transcription differs from the one used by Sutherland in his book and on page 15 of Appendix A of the “Counts Family, First Family Reunion 1936” booklet.

Page 1: “Coutts M L [marriage license]} Bond 22d August 1785”

Page 2: “Know all men by these presents that we Philip Coutts & Jacob Rersneck – are held & firmly bound unto his Excellency Patrick Henry Governor of Virginia and his Juccefsors in the penal fum of Fifty pounds current money to be paid to his Excellency the Governor or his Juccefsors to the which payment well and truly to be made We bind ourselves our and each of our heirs Executors and Administrators Jointly and Severally firmly by these presents sealed whith our seals & dated this 22 day of Augt 1785 The Condition of the above obligation is such that whereas I John Williams Clerk of the County Court of Shanando hath this day IJfued a Licence for the Marriage of the above bound Philip Coutts unto Anna Kifer – of the said County there for If there is no lawfull cause to obstruct the said Marriage and that no Damage accrue by means of the said Licence being IJfued Then the above obligation to be said other wise to remain in full force and Virtue Sealed and Delivered In the presents of } Sam’l Clayton PhilipXCoutts {seal} Jacob RihreJchneck {seal}” Philip signed by mark, Jacob signed with his own signature.

Page 3: “Shanandoah County and beckford Virgany Phillip CoutJ and anna Kifer is a go to git marred John CoutJ and his father and mother is will that they Jhoud git marred [word blacked out] and anna Ki Kifer friends is all a will that Jhe Jud get mared to the sad CoutJ Auguft the 22 1785”

Page 4: “her

Any + Kifer

mark

hij

John X CoutJ

mark

Andrew Kifer

teft” [Testator]

“John CoutJ and his father and mother” seems to indicate that both Philip’s brother John and his parents John and Magdalene Counts and were present at the Court when these documents were made. It was common for the brother or brother-in-law to be on the marriage documents which is what we see here

with John Coutts, Jacob Rersneck and Andrew Kiser. So it is most probable that the John Coutts who signed by mark was Philip's brother, who is named, and not his father. That Philip's parents are mentioned as being present is unusual but also informative as to the closeness of the Counts and Kiser families.

On page 187 there is a note regarding the marriage which states, "As John Koontz gave his written consent to the marriage of his son, Philip, and Anna Keyser in 1785, it would seem that Philip may not then have been quite twenty-one years of age, and that his birth likely occurred about the year 1765." This **cannot be true**, however, as Philip himself signs the marriage bond by his mark and his bondsman Jacob Rersneck by his signature in German. This indicates that Philip was **at least 21 years of age**. Further proof of this is that Philip appears on the Personal Property Tax List of Shenandoah Co., VA in 1785 as Philip Countz, a head of household and **tithable white male over age 21 years**. While we do see that "John Coutts and his father and mother is will that they should get married" in the original, it is because both Philip's brother John and his parents were present as witnesses for **Anna** along with Andrew Kiser, Anna's brother. *Philip's brother-in-law Jacob Rersneck*, who was his bondsman, is the surety for Philip. John Coutts is not approving or giving permission for **Philip** to marry, but for **Anna** as her witness because both of her parents were deceased. Philip signed his own marriage license bond by mark indicating he was of age at this time and this is proven by the 1785 Personal Property Tax list in which he is a male above age 21 years. Andrew Kiser, brother of the bride, was testator for Anna and she signed by mark indicating that she was at least 14 years of age. Anna's friends are also mentioned as approving of the marriage. In many genealogies Anna has been given a birth year of 1756 and a death year of 1833. There is **absolutely no source** for the 1756 birth year, often combined with a birthplace of Lancaster Co., PA, also with **absolutely no source**. The typical age range for a woman to marry was age 16 to 20 years at this time. Anna was at least age 14 years as witnessed by her mark on the marriage documents, making her latest birth year 1771, but more logically she was born between 1765 (age 20 years) and 1769 (age 16 years) at the marriage. Anna's death is recorded in the Bible Record of her daughter Elizabeth Kountz Carter as, "Ann Kountz the Mother of Elizabeth Carter departed this mortal life Sept. 8th 1826." Anna's cause of death is unknown but she is buried on the home property in the Philip Kountz Cemetery also known as the "old Counts graveyard." It is logical, however, that because Philip's Will was written 10 Dec 1833 and there is no mention of or provision for Anna in the Will that the year 1833 began to be used for her death by non-family members.

The next statement is regarding the 1802 deed to **Philip Countz by John and Magdalene Countz**, in which Philip paid two hundred dollars to his parents, and for which a certificate was issued on 27 Jul 1802 by the Court of Russell Co., VA for the property. The deed was then recorded in Shenandoah Co., VA on 10 Jan 1803. This deed was made to Philip *AFTER* the writing of the last Will and Testament of John Counts Senior on 03 Apr 1802 in which "Phillip" is willed one shilling, and prior to 27 Jul 1802. The acreage is given as "75 acres more or less" which is apparently the same acreage as the 79 acres sold to Robert Carter (75 acres "more or less" plus 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres is 77 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres "more or less").

It is highly unfortunate that the only census information used for Philip in both Sutherland's book (page 297) and Meads Relations (page 187) is the Census of 1830. He is listed in 1830 as **Philip Kountz**, one free white person, male, age 50 through 59 years (born between 1771 and 1780), obviously a mistake by the census taker who needed to go one box over for the correct age range of 60 through 69 (born between 1761 and 1770). Not only is the **age range incorrect**, if Sutherland or Prichard had done a bit of calculation they would have realized that **a man who married in 1785 could not be age 50 to 60 years (born between 1771 and 1780) in 1830 unless he married at age 5 to 14 years old!** Philip is also in the 1810 Census as Philip Kountz, the 1820 Census as Philip Counts, and the 1840 Census as Philip Kountz age 70 through 79 years (born between 1761 and 1770).

Shenandoah County for 1830 shows Philip Kountz aged 50 to 60. There are no other members of his family, but he owns four slaves. His will was dated December 10, 1833, and was probated January 23, 1843, with Frederick A. Marye as executor, and William S. Marye, Frederick A. Marye and Mary Marye as witnesses. He named as his beneficiaries his son Jacob, and his daughter Elizabeth Carter (wife of Robert Carter), his nephew Jonas Gray, and his 'black woman Judy.' It is evident that his wife, Anna, was dead in 1833 at the time of the execution of this will. Children:

12. JACOB.

ELIZABETH, m. Robert Carter.

NOTE. As John Koontz gave his written consent to the marriage of his son, Philip, and Anna Keyser in 1785, it would seem that Philip may not then have been quite twenty-one years of age, and that his birth likely occurred about the year 1765. This would distinguish him from another Philip Koontz who lived in Rockingham County, Va., and who was the holder of revolutionary war pension certificate No. 12437. The U. S. Census of revolutionary war pensioners listed Philip Koontz as 95 years of age, and head of his family in Rockingham County on the 1 June 1840. This would fix the year 1745 as the date of his birth, and place him in the same generation as John Koontz, who was probably his brother, since John Koontz named his son, Philip. This John Koontz is not to be confused with the Rev. John Koontz of Mill Creek.

The census of 1785 shows the following heads of families in Shenandoah County: John Countz, George Countz and Jacob Countz. The 1792 list of tithables in Rockingham County shows the following assessments in the vicinity of Smith Creek: Phil. Counce; Peter Counce Sr., and son Phil.; Peter Counce, Jr., and Martin Counce; and, in the neighborhood of Keezletown, appears the name of John Counce.

Judge E. J. Sutherland, of Clintwood, Va., has furnished the following, which was taken from the records of Russell County, Va., viz: "In June, 1794, George McCoy sued John Counts in Russell County. Witnesses for McCoy: Joseph Kiser, Edward Kelly, Abram Childress, William Smith and

The information about Philip Kountz's Will is taken from the Will abstract and accurate as far as it goes. The Will mentions only two children. Son Jacob who was a single man who always lived near his father or other relatives and was never listed as owning personal property in the tax lists except for one horse for one year after his father died. Jacob never owned real estate and deeded his life estate to others after Philip's death. He died about 1870. He is **NOT THE "JACOB KOONTZ" LISTED AS #12, THE SON OF PHILIP AND ANNA, ON PAGE 197 OF MEADS RELATIONS.** That man is *Jacob Koontz, son of Elder John Koontz and his wife Elizabeth Baker Koontz* and not at all related to Philip Kountz (Counts), Philip Koontz of Barbour Co., WV or Philip Koontz of Rockingham Co., VA.

Philip and Anna's daughter **ELIZABETH** is not given a # or any further recognition except "m. Robert Carter" despite having lived next door to her parents her entire married life until the death of her father in 1842.

The whole discussion of "**John Koontz**" who is actually John Counts Senior, is incorrect. John Counts Senior, Philip's father, was born **at the very latest** in 1728 and possibly some years earlier. As stated before, they are not related in any way to the Koontz families, nor the "Counce" family listed here. The only intermarriage between the Kountz-

Counts family and the Kayser-Kiser family is that of Philip and Anna.

See page 197 below.

JACOB B., b. 19 Sept. 1816.
 ANDREW J., b. 14 Sept. 1818; d. 8 Mar. 1888.
 ANN ELIZA, b. 5 Nov. 1820; d. 6 Apr. 1873; m. Ezra
 Mahoney, who d. 18 Apr. 1878, in Jasper Co., Ill.
 ELIZABETH, b. 5 Nov. 1822; d. 20 Apr. 1862.
 PETER S., b. 28 Aug. 1824.
 MARY C., b. 27 Sept. 1826.
 BARBARA A., b. 9 Oct. 1829; d. 9 Aug. 1870.
 JOHN H., b. 25 Dec. 1830.

12. JACOB KOONTZ. His will dated 1844, probated 1846, and recorded in Page County, Va., will book "C" page 125, mentioned the following children:

JOSEPH, deceased.
 JOHN, deceased.
 JACOB, deceased.
 ISAAC, m. No. 49, to which refer.
 MARY, m. a Matterback.
 ELIZABETH, m. a Rosenberger.
 BARBARA, m. a Hays.
 ANNA, m. a Linebarger.
 SUSANNA, m. a Burracker.

Judge E. J. Sutherland doubts the relationship of father and son between this Jacob Koontz and Philip Koontz, husband of Anna Keyser, No. 4.

13. NOAH KEYSER, b. 2 Jan. 1786; m. 14 Mar. 1809, Anna Rhodes, in Shenandoah County, Va. Issue:

(Report of John A. Keyser)

41. JACOB.
 ANDREW J., m. Lucy Ann Rhodes, and had two boys,
 one named: WILLIAM.
 42. ELIZABETH ANN.
 43. SARAH.
 JOSEPH R. n. m.
 44. WILLIAM.
 45. NOAH HAMPSON.
 46. EDWARD THOMAS.

14. GEORGE KEYSER, b. 2 Oct. 1789; m. 5 Sept. 1809, Esther Hershberger. Issue: