

Our Sollenberger line can be verifiably traced to John Sollenberger of 18th century Cumberland County Pennsylvania. His origins and his lineage cannot be accurately determined.

It was reported, but cannot be properly verified, that John's ancestors originated in Knappelen, Wynigen, Bern, Switzerland. Also, that his grandfather, and Colonial Pennsylvania patriarch, was Ulrich Sollenberger who arrived in America in Philadelphia in 1737 on the ship "Andrew Galley" from Rotterdam via Cowes. Ulrich died in 1767 in Tulpehocken Township Berks County Pennsylvania.

John's father was reported to be Michael Sollenberger, who was born 1746 in Berks County Pennsylvania. In 1794 Michael moved to Botetourt County Virginia, where he was reported to have died in 1810.

Our lineage begins with John Sollenberger who was born to one of four brothers that emigrated into Lancaster County Pennsylvania from western Germany. The Sollenberger name has been upon the records of Cumberland County for more than two years. Like many of the early settlers in this section the family came from Lancaster County, but tradition does not say from what part of that great county.

The Sollenberger families were German Baptists, but the families regularly attended the Lutheran Church, of which denomination most of them are members. ¹

John Sollenberger (1771-1855)

John Sollenberger was born July 23rd 1771 to Joseph Sollenberger in Lancaster, Lancaster County Pennsylvania. John's father, Joseph, was one of four brothers that settled in Lancaster County Pennsylvania. ²

About 1785, as the west was being expanded and settled, John moved with his parents into West Pennsboro and Tyrone Township area of Cumberland County Pennsylvania. ³

John took up a trade in the farming community, and in 1791 he married Barbara Yockey. Barbara was born April 25th 1770 in Lancaster County Pennsylvania.

During the fall of 1794, while living in the Carlisle area of Cumberland County, John bought two adjoining farms in Allen Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania. ⁴ In the spring of 1795 John then moved his family to the farm, where he continued his farming for the next sixty years. The corner stone of the farm is dated 1816. ⁵

On May 21st 1795 Michael Ege conveyed to John Sollenberger 132 acres of land, which adjoined lands of George Brindle, Samuel Irvine, and the heirs of James Crockett. This land lies upon the eastern slopes of the Stony Ridge in Monroe Township, and has remained in the Sollenberger name continuously down to the present day. ⁶ The family and children were members of the Church of the Brethren.

Barbara was 61 years old when she died December 25th 1836, and was laid to rest on the family farm cemetery, which is located south of Scotland in Franklin County Pennsylvania. John then married Catherine Kline-Hartman, who was born July 3rd 1786. She was previously married to Mr. Hartman.

John was 84 years, 1 month, and 5 days old when he died September 28th 1855. ⁷ He was laid to rest on the family farm, about 150 years southeast of the house, in the area of Huntsdale with his wife Barbara. ⁸ Catherine died May 15th 1874, and she was laid to rest in the German Baptist Church cemetery in Huntsdale Dickenson Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania. ⁹

There were no children between John and Catherine Kline.

John and Barbara Sollenberger had six sons and four daughters. When John died in 1855, John had nine living children; one daughter died some years ago. ¹⁰

- i. John Sollenberger was born September 10th 1793 in Lancaster County Pennsylvania. He married Hettie Scott.
- ii. Michael E. Sollenberger was born February 27th 1795 in Lancaster County. He married Elizabeth Benedict.
- iii. David Sollenberger was born April 9th 1796 in Allen Township (present day Monroe Township) Cumberland County Pennsylvania. He who married Catherine Frantz.
- iv. Joseph Sollenberger born March 15th 1798 on the old Sollenberger place in Allen Township. He Mary Mohler.
- v. Samuel Sollenberger was born September 24th 1799 in Allen Township Cumberland County. He married Elizabeth Smith.
- vi. Elizabeth was born January 15th 1801 in Allen Township Cumberland County. She married David Free.
- vii. Barbara Sollenberger was born May 5th 1803 in newly formed Monroe (Allen) Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania. She married Samuel Etter.
- viii. Sarah Sollenberger was born 1808 in Monroe Township Cumberland County. She married Martin Lehman.
- ix. Catherine Sollenberger was born April 19th 1811 in Monroe Township Cumberland County. She married Samuel Plough.
- x. Abraham Sollenberger was born September 29th 1814. He died November 15th 1887 when he was 73 years and 16 days old. He married Anna Mary Widder who died on October 21st 1905 , aged 76 yrs 8 months 18 days. Abraham and Anna had a son named Harry who died December 15th Died 1883, aged 5 years 8 months 4 days. They are buried at Mohler's Church, 6/10 mi south on Gettysburg Road where it crosses Wesley Drive, Lower Allen Township.

Two other children where reported:

Benjamin Sollenberger was born June 2nd 1807 in Monroe Township Cumberland County

Ann Sollenberger was born February 23rd 1809 in Monroe Township Cumberland County.

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9. 1793 Joseph Solingberger (Sollenberger) Septennial Census: Residence Tyrone Township, Cumberland County; Septennial Census Returns, 1779–1863. Box 1026, microfilm, 14 rolls. Records of the House of Representatives. Records of the General Assembly, Record Group 7. Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, PA.
10. 1800 Benjamin Shellenberger (Sollenberger) Census: Frankford, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: 48; Page: 43; Image: 0193674; Family History Library Film: 00050; Third Census of the United States, 1810. (NARA microfilm publication M252, 71 rolls); Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
11. 1800 Frederick Shulleberger (Sollenberger) Census: Frankford, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: 48; Page: 43; Image: 0193674; Family History Library Film: 00050; Third Census of the United States, 1810. (NARA microfilm publication M252, 71 rolls); Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

12. 1800 George and Peter Solenberger (Sollenberger) Census: Juniata, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: 48; Page: 58; Image: 0193674; Family History Library Film: 00065; Third Census of the United States, 1810. (NARA microfilm publication M252, 71 rolls); Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
13. 1820 John Sr. and John Jr. Sullenberger (Sollenberger) Allen, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Page: 52; NARA Roll: M33_102; Image: 21; Fourth Census of the United States, 1820. (NARA microfilm publication M33, 142 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
14. 1830 John Sr. and John Jr. Jno Solenberger (Sollenberger) Monroe, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Page: 50; NARA Series: M19; Roll Number: 150; Family History Film: 0020624; Fifth Census of the United States, 1830. (NARA microfilm publication M19, 201 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
15. 1830 Saml Solenberger (Samuel Sollenberger) Monroe, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Page: 114; NARA Series: M19; Roll Number: 150; Family History Film: 0020624; Fifth Census of the United States, 1830. (NARA microfilm publication M19, 201 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
16. 1840 John Sollenberger Jr. Census: East Pennsboro, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: 455; Page: 179; Image: 368; Family History Library Film: 0020543; Sixth Census of the United States, 1840; (NARA microfilm publication M704, 580 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
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19. Mary Sulenberger Census: Monroe, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: M432_773; Page: 245B; Image: 63; Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M432, 1009 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

End Notes

¹ Sollenberger Name in Cumberland County: This information came from the biography of George Addison Sollenberger, pages 738 to 740, Biographical Annals of Cumberland County Pennsylvania, Chicago, The Genealogical Publishing Co., 1905.

² John Sollenberger Birth and Lancaster County Origins: Page one of the book, Descendents of John Sollenberger, Born 1771 – Died 1855, Six Generations, Compiled by D. L. Sollenberger, Shamokin Pa., 1921, as written by the families of John Sollenberger; Digital Copy, Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372

³ Joseph Sollenberger Residence: The 1790 Federal census record, cited in the Bibliography, indicated Hopewell, Tyborn, Newton, and Wes Pennsboro Townships. The 1793 Septennial Census, also cited in the Bibliography, indicates Joseph was in Tyrone Township Cumberland County.

⁴ John Sollenberger Farm: Many references indicate present day Monroe Township, about four miles east of Carlisle and about two miles northwest of Churchtown. This area I known in 2014 as West Lisburn Road, and the farm sits just past Boyer Road, but before Ridge Road, at the township line separating Monroe Township and South Middleton. Our reference for this comes for an 1858 map, and the actual surveys of Cumberland County Pennsylvania, conducted by H.F. Bridgens; Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372 .

⁵ John Sollenberger Land Purchase: The information came from page 1 of the book; Descendents of John Sollenberger, Born 1771 – Died 1855, Six Generations, Compiled by D. L. Sollenberger, Shamokin Pa., 1921, as written by the families of John Sollenberger; Digital Copy, Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372.

⁶ John Sollenberger Life and Family: This information came from pages 738-740 of the Biographical Annals of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, Chicago: The Genealogical Publishing Co., 1905.

⁷ John Sollenberger Age at the Time of Death: The information came from his obituary, November 1855, The Monthly Gospel Visitor, Volume 5, Monthly Gospel Visitor, Brethren Church Archives Periodical Collection, Brethren Historical Library and Archives, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois, 60120; Digital Copy, Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372.

⁸ John Sollenberger Burial: Family Farm, Huntsdale is outside Carlisle Cumberland County Pennsylvania, on Walnut Bottom Road, off Centerville Road; Descendents of John Sollenberger, Born 1771 – Died 1855, Six Generations, Compiled by D. L. Sollenberger, Shamokin Pa., 1921, as written by the families of John Sollenberger; Digital Copy, Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372

⁹ Catherine Kline-Hartman Death and Burial: The information came from her headstone located at present day Huntsdale Church of the Brethren Cemetery, which was also be referred to as Huntsdale Dunker Church Cemetery or German Baptist Church Cemetery in Huntsdales, Cumberland County Pennsylvania. Huntsdale is outside Carlisle Cumberland County Pennsylvania, on Walnut Bottom Road, off Centerville Road

¹⁰ John Sollenberger Death and Children: The information came from his obituary, November 1855, The Monthly Gospel Visitor, Volume 5, Monthly Gospel Visitor, Brethren Church Archives Periodical Collection, Brethren Historical Library and Archives, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois, 60120