

# **The Life of Jacob Persinger**

A collection of stories, documents, and other information about the life of Jacob (Godfrey) Persinger and his family.

By

Matthew A. Misbach

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“...Zarahemla gave a genealogy of his fathers,  
according to his memory; and they are written...”

-Omni

## Preface

This book started out just being a strong desire to reproduce and preserve the original Jacob Persinger story told by his son Joseph. I enjoyed hearing my father tell the story to me as a small boy, and wanted to have permanent record of it to pass on to my kids other than the photocopy of the original book held in the State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia Missouri. After reproducing the original book written by Joseph Persinger (comprising Chapter 1) I quickly found out there was much more information about this great man that wouldn't seem right to leave out.

This book has become as close to a comprehensive collection of information and stories about Jacob Persinger and his family as I can obtain. If you have any information that you feel should be a part of this book please contact me so that I may put it in the next version of this book.

The information in this book has been copied from original documents. During this process great care was taken to preserve the accuracy. If you find any errors please contact me so that I may correct future versions of this book.

You will find square brackets [...] in some places in this book. The text between the brackets is information that I have added from various sources and was not part of the original work. The most common occurrence of the brackets is to denote place holders for the page number in the original document.

Please take the time to visit our website where you will be able to find more information that was not included in the book such as photos, maps, and new information that has turned up since this printing, and error corrections.

Matthew A. Misbach

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**Chapter I**  
**Jacob Persinger Story**

Here is a reproduction of the original book written by Joseph Persinger. I wanted to preserve the original text so for the most part even obvious spelling and grammatical errors were not corrected.

THE LIFE  
Of  
**JACOB PERSINGER,**

*Who was taken by the Shawnee Indians when an infant; with a short account of the Indian troubles in Missouri; and a sketch of the Adventures of the author.*

By JOSEPH PERSINGER

STURGEON, MO.

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR BY MOODY & M'MICHAEL.  
1861.

Jacob Persinger Story  
by Joseph Persinger  
THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES

OF

**JACOB PERSINGER,**  
&c. &c.

**T**he subject of the following memoir, Jacob Persinger was born in Virginia about the year 1735. When an infant he was captured by the Shawnee Indians and carried to Old Chilicoth, in the State of Ohio, with thirty other children. The squaw who adopted him had two sons. She took great pains to rear them according to Indian usage. Never expecting to give up the white child, she raised him as her own sons. Every morning she would immerse them in water, at all seasons of the year, and make them run about until they were dry, and then take them into her wigwam. When they were young, during several years, she would tie boards to their backs in order that they should grow straight. She took great pains in learning them to swim, and hunt with the bow and arrows; and in a few years she gave her white son a gun. The Indians were still hostile to the whites; they told him that "the whites were cowards and would not stand fire."

When he was about twelve years old, as he supposed, there was a treaty entered into between the whites and Shawnee Indians, by the conditions of

which the [page 4] Indians were under obligations to give up all the white prisoners, both male and female, taken about the time he was. Accordingly, the chief selected a guard to take them through the Allegany Mountains to the head waters of James river. When they arrived at the place appointed, they informed the whites that they had brought the prisoners. Parents who had lost children immediately collected to see if they could recognize theirs. It appeared, at that time, that no person claimed him; he became dissatisfied and ran back to his Indian mother. When he arrived, his Indian mother was so rejoiced to see him that she almost went beside herself. She did not conceal him at that time, and the chief discovering him, called his warriors together and made to them a speech; the purport of which was that the treaty be held sacred, and they must take the young man back to his people. The warriors opposed him, stating that they had taken him back once and that was enough. They then retired to their wigwams.

Some time after, the chief summoned his warriors in council, and made another powerful effort to have him sent back; but without avail. The chief, after some time, concluded he would make on more effort; he called his whole nation together, and told them that "the treaty should be fulfilled at all hazards." So he appointed three warriors, who took him to the head waters of the James river. During his absence it was ascertained that there was yet a boy held missing; but before the woman who had lost a child got to see him he had made his escape, and went back to the Shawnees a second time. When he returned, his Indian mother concealed him for a considerable time. The chief finally discovered him; whereupon he called his nation together and spoke in quite a different manner. He told them that "the captive must be taken back that the pale faces were getting powerful; that if they [page 5] kept him the treaty would be violated and he would be responsible": so they were constrained to consent. The prisoner, hearing that he must be taken back to his people, concluded that his Indian friends had forsaken him, and that he never would return to them again. They commenced their journey through the mountains and arrived safely at the same white settlement from which he had previously made his way back to the Indians. It was soon known in the settlement.

The woman that supposed him to be her son was of German origin, about four and a half feet high; the prisoner, when grown, was about six feet four inches. This woman came to see him, and stated that if he were her son he had a scar on his ankle caused by the bite of a rattlesnake, when hay-making, having taken him into the meadow with her and laid him in the shade. Upon examination no scar was found, consequently she did not believe him to be her son; she also thought him to be too large: notwithstanding she adopted him into her family. There being a Dutch [German] school in the neighborhood, they prevailed on him to go; he went a short time, but could not learn their language. Some time after they sent him to an English school. When going to school he always carried his tomahawk, butcher knife, rifle, and bow and arrows. Teachers in those days being very severe, he concluded that if his own made an attack on him he would kill him and make his escape to the Indians. The teacher discovering, perhaps, that



he was a perfect Indian in custom and manners, endeavored to conciliate him by occasionally giving him a piece of money. The whole time he went to school was only three months.

The woman that adopted him, whose name was Persinger, did not treat him as kindly as she did her own children; consequently he became dissatisfied, and concluded he would shift for himself. He left them and [page 6] went to Stony Creek, and built a wigwam [The wigwam was a circular, or oval, dome-shaped structure, housing one or two families. The butt-ends of the pole or sapling frame were imbedded in the earth; the tapered ends were bent down and tied in place with bark strips. Over this frame was fastened a covering of bark or mats, sometimes a combination of both. Mats were made of cattails or common marsh "flags" as they were called. In the center of the domed roof was a smoke hole; a section of bark on a long pole resting against the side of the wigwam could be adjusted to keep the wind from blowing the campfire smoke back inside.] after the Indian fashion. He followed hunting. Everybody wore buckskin then; so hunting was a tolerably good business in those days. He killed a great many bear and deer, and found a ready market at home for the peltry he saved, and made it very profitable. Some time after he discovered a man measuring the land with a chain for some one of the company. He supposed it was intended for hunting ground. He found that this man was paid with money for his surveying; so he concluded that he would have some measured off for himself, and had several surveys made. All a man had to do in those days was to pay the surveyor for his work, eight dollars, for which he gave you a warrant; and that document gave you a good title to the lands: and these surveys would sometimes cover several hundred acres of land.

People, shortly afterwards, began to go in and build cabins, clear the ground, plow it, and raise corn and vegetables for their own family consumption; when their corn became ripened they gathered it, then invited all their neighbors to aid in husking it; and after they finished their husking, they would then dance to the merriment of all present. It seems that Jacob Persinger was a particular guest; I presume, because he was raised with the Indians. They took great pains in exhibiting to him the manners, customs and usages of the whites. He at last became better satisfied, and built himself a wigwam on one of his surveys, but still followed hunting. It was not long until the young people began to marry in the settlement: he generally received an invitation. He discovered that the couple would stand upon the floor and that ceremony would be said to them, but still he did not understand it. After the marriage ceremony was over they would have a feast, and after the feast they would go to dancing, [page 7] and enjoy themselves the most of the night in all the mirthful enjoyments of life.

About these times he began to understand the English tongue, and talk so that he could be understood; so after having seen a great many marriages, and having begun to understand the meaning of these weddings, he concluded to get a wife himself, and afterwards married and took a wife to his own wigwam. After they were married, she asked him where his bed was: he

pointed to a couple of black bearskins. She then told him he must go down to the store and buy some blankets, and have better beds; that she was not accustomed to such beds as bearskins: so he went several miles to a store and trade skins for blankets, with which she made a bed. She told him they must have a house like their neighbors; so he cut logs and built a cabin. I will stop here, and refer back to the time he was given up until he married.

For some cause, I know not what, there was another war commenced between the Shawnees and whites, and General Lewis with his army went against the Indians. This white person was then known by the name of Jacob Persinger, after the name of this Dutch [German] woman's child.

When General Lewis started out against the Shawnees, Jacob Persinger volunteered under Captain Arbuckle and Lieutenant Ganway; all under the command of Gen. Lewis. The officers all discovered that he would make a good spy, and appointed him and a man by the name of James Mooney. Persinger recollected the boasting of the Indians in regard to the cowardice of the whites, and thought, as he said, that he would see whether the whites were cowardly or not, and whether the Indians would not run first. So they started over the Allegany Mountains to the seat of war, and on their trip they met with many hardships. [page 8] The Indians had stationed themselves near the junction of the Kanhawa river with the Ohio river; General Lewis made his way over the mountains and established his head-quarters on the point between the two rivers. Persinger and Mooney were put on the scout every morning to reconnoiter the army of the Indians.

Lewis had a strong fort built between the two rivers. The Indians, finding out where the whites were stationed, determined to make a vigorous attack. The chief made three divisions of his army; they crossed the Ohio river in the night, and made arrangements so that one division was to go down the Kanhawa, one down the Ohio, and the third between the wings. The center was to attack the fort and keep the whites engaged until the two flanks could surround the fort; and at a certain signal they were to charge over the breastworks. But, fortunately for the whites, those two celebrated spies were on the alert, and discovered the enemy at daylight. Two men were out that morning hunting their horses, and met the Indians marching towards the fort, about the time the spies discovered them. The Indians fired upon them and wounded one of the men, who then ran to the fort and gave the information. A great many men of the army were still in their tents. The scouts ran to the General's marquee and reported to him that the Indians were marching in full force against the fort.

The General ordered all the captains to parade their men on the spot, and to count sixteen men out of every company to march forth with and meet the Indians before they could get to the fort; the balance of the army the general kept in the fort. The troops that were ordered out marched up the bottom with Persinger Mooney in company, who, on being discovered by the officers, were directed to take the lead. [page 9] They ran along in front of the lines until they met a strange company with but few in it, about which time

they met the beef cattle running in great affright, when Persinger spoke and said, "Now, boys, we will have fun." Some one of the company wished to know who that chap was, and what he knew about it. He told him the cattle had smelled the Indians, and that was a sure sign of their being near at hand.

Immediately a gun was fired to the right of the company, and in a few minutes there was a general peal of rifles all along the lines. Persinger said that when he ran along the lines, he met some of the men running to and fro in every direction, and blood was flowing freely from some of the men. He said he stopped to see if he could see any Indians, and knowing that the Indian mode of warfare was to take a tree as a quick as possible, he started and ran to one tree and then to another, and had started to a third, when he discovered the feet of an Indian that was lying behind it. He then knew that he was compelled to make his way to the tree and shoot first, if possible; but on arriving at the tree he discovered that some man had given the Indian a dead shot: his gun was lying by his side cocked, and his horn well filled with powder. The men were very scantily supplied with powder; so he took the Indian's horn, filled his own, then gave it to a man by the name of Ezekiel Johnson, who supplied himself also, and soon afterwards ran to a tree. About this time he said he turned his head and discovered three Indians behind another tree, and one of them could not well conceal himself: he took up the gun of the Indian that was killed, and shot one of the three dead on the spot. And made his escape to another tree farther off for safety.

He said the battle raged hot all day, and late in the evening he saw an Indian shoot a man from behind the [page 10] roots of a fallen tree; after which he crept as near to him as he possible could unperceived, and got behind the roots of a large elm that had blown down, from which he saw a man standing behind a tree, who projected his head beyond it, he supposed, to see if he could get sight for a shot at an Indian; when in an instant he heard the report of a rifle, an saw the man fall with a large hole in his forehead. He discovered it was the same Indian that he first saw behind the roots of a tree, loading his gun, but could see nothing but his arm. About the time this Indian got his gun loaded, Persinger said there was a man by the name of David Gleason, standing behind a tree not far off, who stepped out a little to discover the Indian he was trying to get a shot at. The Indian fired, and the ball struck Gleason in the breast: he broke and ran to the fort. Gleason, however, survived the wound, and lived to the good old age of eighty-nine years.

While Persinger was lying behind the roots of the elm he first reached and was watching for an opportunity to discover the Indian's head, another Indian discovered him and fired, the ball striking directly under him; he then jumped up and left the place. Every time an Indian would fire and kill or wound a man, he would give the war-whoop. He then retreated, and had come back some distance before he saw any white man, but at length found several lying behind a log; they said the Indians had retreated, and they had stopped there to rest. He said the first time he noticed any thing except the battle, was the croaking of the ravens that came to devour the dead; when he

looked up, and discovered that the sun was setting. "I did not; said he, think we were engaged more than two hours." He said he then made his way back to the fort, and had no gloomy feelings until he heard that groans of the wounded and dying.

[page 11] About sunset Persinger went out from the fort and sat down upon a log, when a young Indian came along and hailed him in the Indian tongue: he answered it, and the Indian came to him, who proved to be one of his Indian mother's sons. He said they talked about the war. The Indian told him that he had been sent there to see if there was any chance of attacking them with success, and that the fort would be attacked the next day. He said he told him how near he was being killed, when the Indian gazed upon him for some time, gave a long sigh, accompanied with a loud shriek, shook his head and departed with all the friendship that could be expected from an enemy, by saying that he hoped the next day would settle the matter between them forever.

That night Col. Christy marched into the fort with a battalion of fresh troops: he had the day previous stationed his troops on the mountains, and heard the roaring of the battle, but so indistinctly that they could not account for it; but finally became satisfied that a battle had taken place. By the influence of Colonel Christy they agreed to make a forced march that night at all hazards, which they did. Some time in the night they got safely in the fort, which caused great satisfaction to General Lewis and his army. Before Colonel Christy's arrival Lewis considered himself in imminent peril; because the day after the battle neither army with propriety could claim the victory.

Before the chief had any information of a reinforcement, he sent an interpreter with a message to Lewis that he intended to decide the matter the next day, which caused great alarm in the fort; but an Indian spy, who laid in ambush that night, counted Christy's men as they marched into the fort four men deep, went back to his chief and reported the fact of Lewis's reinforcement, which caused the chief to abandon the idea of attacking the fort.

[page 12] So, on the next morning, every thing was arranged for a general engagement by the whites; but when the spies came and reported that the Indians had re-crossed the Ohio river, and were stationed on the opposite bank, they went out and hallooed to the Indians, wishing to know why they did not give them battle as they promised to do. The old chief took hold of a small sprout, twisted it into a knot, after which he went to a sapling and tried to twist that, but could not do so; that was done to show that he had twisted them the day before, but could not do so now; and also showed to the army of the whites that he had discovered Christy's battalion when it made its appearance the night before. But if the Indians had renewed their attack immediately after the battle they would have undoubtedly captured all the men in the fort; for they were hungry, weak, fatigued, and nearly destitute of ammunition, save the horn of powder that Jacob Persinger took from the Indian found at the foot of the tree. The Shawnee chief's plan was exceeding

wise for attacking the fort next day. He intended to divide his army in three divisions, as he did the day before: let the two wings at night march in silence on either side of the fort and conceal themselves so close, that when they made their appearance the next day the fire of the guns could do but little execution, until they could storm the fort; and the chief, with his chosen band of warriors in the center, could so distract the whites, by firing upon them first, and divert their attention so much that few Indians would be killed from either wing. But, fortunately, by the reinforcement of Christy's army, and the alacrity [Speed or quickness; celerity] and skill of the two celebrated spies, the men in the fort were inevitably saved from a horrid massacre and torture by the Indians. The war was, for that time, settled with the Shawnees. The wounded men were put in charge of the [page 13] two spies, and conveyed by them in safety up the Kanhawa river to their relations. Jacob Persinger returned to his residence. Thus ended that campaign.

Some time after he returned to his home he courted and married a fine and amiable lady, by the name of Mary Kimberlin, and then turned the most of his attention to his little farm. It seems, from the manner in which he conducted his farm, that he was endowed with some supernatural power to aid him in the capacity; for he conducted it with such skill and ingenuity that one might believe he was reared a farmer. He raised all kinds of grain, with sufficient vegetables to supply all his neighbors bountifully, and had plenty of other things to keep his family supplied with every thing needful. After the cropping season was over, every year, Jacob Persinger was always found in search of *bear* and *deer*, while he was able to walk over the mountains, and kept his family well supplied with all kinds of game. It is rather remarkable that, as fond of hunting as the subject of this was, he kept his farm in the most elegant style, and allowed nothing noxious to grow on it. His fencing was well built, his house though rough was neat, his cattle and horses always fat; and no creature around or about him every suffered in want of anything as long as Jacob Persinger had any thing to contribute to their wants. His neighbors thought that whatever he said was law, and that any calculation made by him was correct. Notwithstanding, the only three months education he ever received entitled him to all the confidence and respect of his friends, together with his stability, integrity, and firmness. He was always, to the end of his life, the selfsame Jacob Persinger. He was a man fond of civil, social, and mirthful enjoyment; and would frequently invite his friends and neighbors to come and partake of a sumptuous repast, in divert themselves with one [page 14] of the common pleasures of those days, which was "to trip on the fantastic toe."

Amidst the height of his farming, and, as he supposed of his peaceful retirement to the society of his beloved wife and children, the Revolutionary war began; and thus feeling the endearment of family ties, the welfare of his lovely children—to see them oppressed by the tyrannical yoke of Britain he could not endure. He related the condition of his country to his beloved Mary; and told her how his blood ran when he thought that his and her children should become subjects to such despotism. His emotions he could

not control. His wife saw them and earnestly entreated him to withhold from the war if possible; but if his country needed his service, as much as it would grieve her to part with him, it was nothing but right that he should go. And she further said, "Now go, Jacob, and God be with you; myself and children can make a good support for me and them, and have something for you after your return." And Jacob Persinger did go. What man after receiving the encouragement he did from so lovely a wife, and possessing a spark of patriotism, would not then shoulder his gun and march in defense of his country's rights? Jacob Persinger did so; he took his gun and proceeded to the army immediately, and there received a commission; but what commission I am not able to say, and fought bravely in defense of his country: and after the war he returned to his family. Jacob Persinger raised a respectable family; but for the want of sufficient means he failed to give them a good common education. The name of his sons were Andrew, Alexander, Joseph, and John.

Alexander and Joseph emigrated to Missouri, in which State they have ever since lived; both married and raised respectable families. Alexander moved to Montgomery county, in this State. Whilst living in that [page 15] county he was elected several times to the Legislature; and then afterwards was judge of the same county for nine years; and then moved to Boone county, and presided as one of the county judges until August, 1860.

Joseph was of a different temperament from Alexander, entirely; he was fond of hunting, dancing, and fishing. It seems that the backwoods or frontier life was most suitable to him. He once became a candidate for the Legislature of Boone county, against one of the most conspicuous men of those days, and was defeated by only a small majority; the cause of this defeat was that he was the candidate of the weaker party, but outrun his ticket by three hundred. He has been enrolling clerk of the Legislature, sergeant-at-arms, and doorkeeper of the Senate for several consecutive years. Whilst not engaged in his public pursuits, he would be found closely engaged in what he desired above all pleasures—hunting bear or deer, or dancing. He is a great violinist, and amuses to the present day all persons with whom he associates. He is a large man, weighs about two hundred and seventy pounds. He has killed more bear, deer, and caught more beavers, than any other man in Missouri. There is something more about this man Joseph Persinger; he was taught by his father that it is that duty of every man to love, revere, and respect his country and his country's rights.

In an early day the Sioux Indians became very troublesome, and did a great deal of mischief in Howard and other adjoining counties, and committed depredations of the worst kind. Joseph Persinger was ever ready to take up his gun and follow them as far as any man. The Indians once stole some horses from Howard county, and at the same time took with them a Negro man from a man by the name of Baxter, and made their way east. Baxter and his son went in pursuit of them, and followed their trail over the Grand Prairie until [page 16] they came to a branch which is now running through

Audrian county, eight miles west of the county seat called Mexico; there they discovered fresh traces of the Indians, which proved the Indians were near. Baxter alighted from his horse and told his son to hold him and not let him make a noise, for he would soon come back. So he went into the hazel brush, on the south side of the stream, and discovered the Indians building up a fire; after which time, he immediately returned and told his son to keep as still as possible, and also to keep the horses still; that, if the Indians knew they were there, there would be no possible chance of escape from them. They kept still until had become dark then Baxter went to the edge of the water and sat down. Shortly afterwards an Indian came to the stream, sat down and stayed there sometime, then got up and went back to the camp, wrapped his blanket around him and laid down near the other Indians. There were eight in company with the Negro. Baxter waited after that for some time, until he found they had full time to get to sleep; his weapon was nothing but a tomahawk with a spike on the pole of it, which was very sharp. He then proceeded to cross the creek very easily, which was about waist deep, crept up the bank very cautiously, until he reached the top, stood for a few minutes, like a tiger watching his prey; and then with all the power and ability he could possibly summon, he pounced up them and soon dispatched the whole of the Indians, by sticking the sharp poll of his tomahawk in the heads of every one. He then awoke his Negro man, and told him to go and tell his son to come to the camp. The Negro went and told his young master what his old master had done; they both then returned to the camp, and with the old man, all three laid down and slept upon the ground on which the Indians were captured. The next day they gathered their [page 17] horses and made their way back to Howard county, the place of their abode. The circumstances above related was the cause of that branch, which is now meandering its course through Audrian county, being called Skull Lick.

Several years after this transaction of Baxter's took place with the Indians, the people began to hunt and then to settle there. They discovered skulls lying about on the creek, and saw large holes in them; they concluded them to be the skulls of the Indians that Baxter killed, and called the stream "Skull Lick." I presume this stream will bear that as long as time lasts.

I will tell you of another battle that took place shortly after Baxter killed the seven Indians on *Skull Lick*. Again there were more horses stolen from the whites. They collected together a small company, and started immediately in pursuit of them, in order to recover their property. They followed after them as far as St. Charles county, and then lost all traces of them; when they concluded to return. On arriving at Loutre Lick, (not supposing any danger;) they traveled unguarded. At the prairie fork of Loutre, where it empties into the main stream of Loutre creek, there is a high bluff on the north side of the stream that runs back from it several yards. The whites were between prairie fork and the main stream. Upon this bluff the Indians were lying in ambush, and fired upon the whites. They saw no possible chance of escape, but to swim the main stream; so those who could swim pitched into the creek; but few, if any, ever got across—those who stayed behind were massacred and killed by the merciless hands of the savages. Thus ended one of the most

brutal murders that was frequently committed by the Indians in Missouri in those days.

At another time the same company of Indians came [page 18] in and stole several head of horses, besides other property. Colonel Cole had command of the rangers at that time. He collected them together, as quick as possible, and started in pursuit of the Indians, and overtook them on the waters of the Salt river, and demanded their stock. The old chief met them very friendly. Cole asked him why he allowed his warriors to take their horses? The chief said there are some of his men he could not control; and they should have all their horses without any difficulty, and readily gave them up. The whites started back with their stock, and traveled until night overtook them. The colonel was unwilling to camp; but his men rather remonstrated, and told him they entertained no danger; but Colonel Cole said to them that he knew the customs of Indians too well to stop at that time; that they were sure to follow them and probably, if they did camp, kill several of them. The men, feeling themselves greatly fatigued, opposed Cole very much; even his four brothers, who were in company, seemed desirous that they should camp; and also charged him with cowardice. Cole then remarked if they were willing to risk their lives he was willing to share the same fate with them; so he immediately ordered them to strike camp, let the result be as it might. About midnight the Indians made the attack. The camp-fires of the whites were blazing up greatly, and made every man a good target for the Indians. The Indians came up behind the men, and as soon as they got near enough, they let off a volley of guns, which killed and wounded together nearly every man in the camp. Col. Cole was slightly wounded: he saw his four brothers fall at the first fire. The Indians rushed in the camp with their tomahawks and knives to kill all that were left alive, and to scalp all they could kill. One Indian attacked Cole with a knife, but Cole, being a very stout athletic man, kept the Indian from killing [page 19] him for some time; but the Indian still pressed on him, and at length stabbed Cole five or six times. Cole knew then it was death or victory; and, notwithstanding the loss of blood he had sustained, he clinched the Indian, threw him into the fire, and held him there until he burnt to death.

Whilst Cole was holding the Indian in the fire he hallooed manfully for help; but the other Indians were too closely engaged in murdering and scalping the whites they paid no attention to the burning Indian, if they heard him. Cole seized his gun, hurried out of camp, and sat down by the root of a tree, quite faint and weary. The blood was running from Cole's wounds very profusely; he discovered a large Indian, about the fire, making many gesticulations and motions, throwing and brandishing his hatchet in the air in every direction. Cole thinking at that time, death was certain; too, weak as he was, he raised his gun and shot the Indian dead, who went tumbling into the fire. From that report the Colonel expected every minute to be killed; but the shot seemed to alarm the Indians, and they shortly moved off out of the reach of the ear. Cole started to travel, in order to get as far from the battle ground as possible by daylight. He traveled until he became so weak that he laid down expecting never more to rise a live man; but, after resting until the following



evening, he found he could travel again, and attempted to rise, but found his clothes so stiff with blood that it was almost impossible to walk; so he threw away his gun and started out again. He had not traveled far when he heard a sharp whistle, which he immediately knew to be the whistle of a hunter. He answered it. A white man came to where he was and assisted him in getting home.

[page 20] The man told Cole that he had gone out hunting that day and had discovered the battleground, and saw some traces of blood leading off from the place; he concluded to follow them up and aid the one that needed it—and this is the way he found Cole. He got well of his wounds, and lived many years afterwards, and made a useful man during his life. This same Cole the man for which Cole county in this State is named. A short time after this massacre of the whites took place the chief came to the whites and proposition for a treaty with them but told them that he had had about fifty young warriors who would not come in to any treaty they could make, and that he would not become responsible for any depredations they might commit; but probably, through his influence, the warriors would become less reckless, and they might, at some future time, become willing to go into treaty. However, the whites concluded to make a treaty of as amicable terms as possible; and thus concluded treaty with the chief.

Not long after this treaty was made some hunter went down on the Bon-Femme creek to find some game, and, in traveling down an Indian path in pursuit of game, they discovered the head of a white man sticking upon a pole; they became alarmed, immediately went back and reported what they had seen. The whites collected together as quick as possible, made arrangements to catch the murderers, and started off to where the head was found. On arriving at the spot where the head was found they found two men had been killed, which exasperated them very much. They then entered into a compact that they would hunt from day to day until they found the murderers; and seek revenge by taking the lives of those who committed the atrocious deed. They started and traveled over considerable scope of country, and at length saw an [page 21] Indian alone; took him prisoner, and interrogated him in regard to the murder of the two men; but he stoutly denied having any knowledge of the murder at all. They then asked him if he knew of any Indians; he told them he did; that they were then stationed on the point between the creek and the Missouri river.

The white men immediately set out to march against them. They proceeded to get as close as possible unobserved, and they succeeded. They crossed over the creek as easy as possible, and formed a line that extended from the creek to the river. When they marched upon the Indians they found them playing *bandy* [A stick game was played by the Indian tribes for 5 hundred years, the ball being usually made of wood or deer skin and the stick some times a deer leg]. They made a rush and got between them and their guns. The Indians knew now their only chance for safety would be either to swim Bon-Femme creek or the Missouri river; but the whites were too fast for them; they made a charge and killed off forty-nine, all except one; he

escaped with a broken arm. After the battle was over, the whites took the Indian prisoner upon the bottom or low ground on the Missouri river, told him, if he wished to save his life, he could get clear by our-running any one man in the company. The Indian readily acceded to this proposition, and started off at full speed; but a man by the name of Fuget started after him, caught him immediately, and led him back to the company. The whites told him they would give him another chance; that he might commence running, and after he got a certain distance from them they were to commence firing—and if none of the balls stuck, he should go unharmed. The Indian started at full speed again; after he got to the required distance he ran in an angular direction; but the poor creature did not get far until he fell dead, with seven bullet holes in him. This defeat of the Indians settled the war with them for some time.

The next Indian war was with the Indians that lived [page 22] on the North Grand river. The people from the northern parts of Howard and Boone counties had suffered considerable from the thefts that had been committed upon their borders, and concluded to raise a company and find out the locality of the Indians. Colonel Field Trammel commanded the company. After reaching the waters of Grand river, they understood that many depredations had been committed there; they immediately went in pursuit of them and found them encamped on Chariton creek, near the boundary line of Missouri and Iowa. Trammel marched up to the Indians' camp, and called out the chief, (Big Neck,) and insisted upon his coming out, which he did. Trammel then told him he wanted him to give up all the stock they had taken from the frontier settlers. The chief replied that all the stock they had was about paid for at that time, and also made a great preliminary speech in regard to the stock. By this time the Indians have collected entirely around Trammel's men, when the chief ordered his men immediately to cock their guns. A man by the name of Myers saw that the Indians were about to fire up them, so he made a rush and took the head of their interpreter off; thus the conflict commenced, and in a short time there were several whites killed. Those that were left alive made a rush and broke the Indian lines and made their escape, but were hotly pursued by the Indians for many miles. On the return of the Indians to the battleground, they piled logs together and burned all the bodies of the dead.

Some time after this, General Owen Crawley started in search of the Indians, together with M. Horner, commander of a company, and Joseph Persinger, commanding of another company. After marching several days they overtook the Indians, who, finding themselves overpowered, retreated towards Rock Island, on the Mississippi; but some of the whites pursued and overtook [page 23] them. The chief surrendered unto them with all his warriors. They were confined and taken to the Howard county jail, to await their trial at the regular term of Howard Circuit Court. The trail came on, and the Indians proved the whites to have been the aggressors, and were acquitted according to law; thus they were released.

After this trial there were some white men that went and traded with the Indians, and bargained with them for all their wives, upon the condition, that if they, the Indians, would let them have their squaws, the whites would, at a certain time, give up all their white women. The Indians readily acceded to the proposition, and presently went to the white women and claimed them as their property; but the women treated them with disdain and refused to have any thing to do with them. These refusals greatly enraged the Indians, and they swore they would take revenge; so they commenced retaliating by killing all of the hogs they could find, and stealing all the horses they could lay their hands upon.

The next trouble between the Indians and the whites was the war with Black Hawk. This chief and his tribe committed many depredations in the State of Illinois; in fact all the ravages were confined to that State. But the people of Missouri, hearing of these butcheries and thefts, concluded at once to assist her sister State in repelling her savage foes, if they should perchance cross the Mississippi river. A detachment of them was sent to the Desmoines river, to be in readiness to receive the Indians should they at any time attempt to cross the Mississippi; these troops being commanded by Austin A. King and Sinclair Kirtley. The only fear entertained by these commanders was, that if Black Hawk should cross over into Missouri, he would be aided by his brother-in-law who was living in this State and commanded many warriors, although he held [page 24] out the idea that he was not interested in this war. While the Indians of Illinois were preparing for a general war, Generals Scott and Atchinson were moving towards them for an attack; but the Indians timely discovered their movements, and retreated up the Mississippi. The whites pursued and overtook them immediately on the bank of the river, and had them completely surrounded that their only alternative was to swim the river, which they undertook to do; but the sharp-shooting whites picked them off, one by one, and fast, that in a short time there was scarcely an Indian to be seen in the water except Black Hawk and a few others, who made their escape up the river: but were captured by some friendly Indians and taken back to Scott and Atchinson, who took them and kept them until a treaty was made by Black Hawk with the whites.

I will now go back and relate a strange circumstance that took place a short time after Jacob Persinger was married. In those days the people of the western part of Virginia would search the caves in the mountains for black bear; and whenever they killed one they would make bacon of it, which is very fine indeed. The bear is a very singular animal. About Christmas it generally takes up its winter quarters, which are generally in a cave; but, before finally entering for the winter, it lays out for several days without eating, until all the excrementitious matter is ejected from its bowels. Then it enters the cave, and remains there until spring. A short time after the female enters her cave she brings forth her young, which are generally from two to four in number. The cubs, immediately after their birth crawl to the teats and suckle, and do not let it out of their mouths until spring. At the time they are finally brought forth they are not larger than a mouse, and all entirely destitute of hair.

[page 25] Jacob Persinger and a son of the German woman spoken of previously, concluded they would go in quest of bear. It was not long after they started that they came to a small cave, which they proceeded to examine, and soon discovered in it a very large one. They fired their guns, and, after waiting until they thought the bear was dead, made preparations for hauling him out. Jacob Persinger took a rope and went into the cave, while the German boy stood on the outside. As soon as Jacob got in, he told the German that the bear was dead, for he then had his hand in its mouth; he then tied the rope around the bear's hind leg and came out; but just as he got to the entrance of the cave, the bear ran out past him and made its escape.

I will now tell you something about the beaver, an animal with which I am well acquainted. I got my first information about the beaver from William Baxter, the gentleman that killed the Indians on Skull Lick, of which mentioned has already been made. I as then young, and the idea of trapping beaver was my greatest delight. Baxter invited me to go with him, and promised to show me how to catch beaver. Baxter had but one trap; I managed to get another from Nathan Boone, which his father (Daniel Boone, the pioneer of the western country) had left him.

Baxter and I started up the Perche and soon found signs of the animal : we set our traps and soon caught five. From there we went to a place on the Missouri called the Thousand Islands, situated just below Nashville, there set our traps, and caught eleven. By this time I thought myself perfect in trapping beaver, but still continued with my old preceptor. The greatest mystery in catching beaver is procuring the bait. The beaver has at the extremity of its intestines from four to six lumps, about six inches long and one inch in diameter; these are called castors. You take one of these [page 26] and fasten it on your trap, and place it about five inches above the water. As soon as the beaver gets scent of the bait, which it can do at a goodly distance, it proceeds forthwith to the trap, and is caught by the foot. It is in deep water, it drowns; but if it should fail to get into deep water, it gnaws its own foot off.

The beaver cuts down trees with its teeth from four inches to two feet thick, which I have myself seen. One beaver can not do much by itself; but they assemble together in large numbers, and build dams across small streams to float their timbers into larger streams, where they build their houses. I have seen logs cut off eight feet long, but how they got them to the water I have never been able to learn. The Indians think they pull the logs into the water with their tails. These dams will stand for several years. The manner in which they build their dams shows that they have great instinct : they set the timbers endwise in the mud with the top leaning down stream, so that the water and mud, pressing upon them, give them greater strength. The beaver's hind feet is webbed like those of a goose, but its forefeet are not; its tail very much resembles that of a fish, having scales, but rather darker in color.

Isaac Van Biber and myself were once trapping on Big Loutre creek : we caught eleven. We knew there were more there; but they became so shy that they would not come out of their houses. We then left, returning again in about two weeks, and again set our traps. One more was caught, but it cut its foot off and made its escape. VanBiber said if we would change the bait, we could catch more ; so we took fresh bait taken from the beaver, set our traps, and that night caught the same beaver that had its foot cut off, and one other that we had left from the first trapping. This shows that the beaver will risk its life for the musk other beavers contain.

[page 27] I will now give you an idea how we caught young buffalo and young elk. We would take gentle milch cows out on the prairie, and when we found a herd of buffalo or elk we would get behind the cows and drive them towards the herd; the old buffalo of the herd would then run off and leave the calves lying in the grass; we would then drive a cow up to a calf, when it would immediately jump up, run to the cow, and suckle it just as if she was its mother.

I will also show how we captured the black bear and the cubs. Priestly H. McBride, John Asbhy Snell, and myself, went out on a hunting excursion on Salt river. Shortly after we crossed it, we discovered signs of bear, and presently I discovered a large bear standing on its hind legs, shot it, and McBride and I ran up to it, and McBride shot in the head. While we were skinning it we heard a noise up a tree, and on looking up we discovered a cub, which immediately jumped down and started off: it came near falling on Snell. I started after it and caught it, but had to kill it with my knife. We began then to look around, and discovered another in a Lynn tree. I proposed to them that if they would cut the tree, I would tie it, as I had a rope with me. They set to work and soon had the tree down: just as the tree fell, I threw the rope around its neck and threw and held it down, when it began to bite and claw me considerably; I then let it up, and tied the rope to a tree standing near by; after which it became quite gentle. Before we were done butchering the first bear that was killed, another came down a tree; when I started after it and ran it up another tree, and McBride shot it. McBride and I put the live cub upon Snell's horse, behind him, to carry it home. After we got there, we took it off and put in the yard with our dogs: it immediately became attached to them, and during its stay it never did any harm—only, when the family would leave the [page 28] house, it would go in, pull off all the bed coverings, place them on the floor, get upon them and go to sleep. This bear became very fond of hunting; sometimes when we went on a hunt it would follow the dogs. One morning we went out on a fox hunt; the dogs started one, the bear followed, and the chase it got so far from us that it never returned.

I was once in the Allegany Mountains hunting. I discovered a large female bear under a chestnut tree, with two cubs, feeding on chestnuts. In trying to get a shot, I saw her strike one of the cubs on the head, which caused it to run up a tree; when she immediately struck the other, which cause it also to

climb a tree, and as soon as they were up she ran off. I then knew she had scent of me; but she soon came back, and I killed her and both the cubs.

I was once in the mountains fishing for trout, along with a man by the name of Tucker. I saw the track of a bear near the place where we were fishing, and told Tucker there was a bear not far from us. He replied, as he had never seen a wild bear, he would be glad to get a shot at it, and took his gun and started off. I told him he had better be cautious, for if it should chance to be a dame with cubs, she might prove very dangerous. He started out towards a small piece of bottom land not far from us, and as soon as he got out of sight I heard a gun fire and a cub squall; and directly I saw Tucker coming full tilt, and the bear close after him. On coming to the water, he jumped in up to his neck. The bear stopped on the bank and looked at him; and while standing there I leveled my gun and shot her dead. I then endeavored to prevail on Tucker to go with me and show me where the cubs were; but he would not go. So he left his gun, and would fish no more that day.

At another time, a young man by the name of [page 29] Harmon and myself started out for a deer lick, and whilst going thither we saw a young bear coming down the hill to get water. Harmon said he wanted a pet, and would try to catch it; so he started after it and ran it up a tree. He said he would climb the tree and tie the cub if I would watch for the old one, and started up. As soon as he got near the cub, it began to bawl; and immediately the old bear came full tilt, ran past me, and commenced climbing the tree; but, being small, it was difficult for the bear to reach Harmon. As Harmon looked down at the old bear, I saw he would soon fall; so I quickly raised my gun and shot the bear dead. Harmon and the bear both fell together. The cub fell shortly afterwards; when I caught it, took it to Harmon's father and made him a present of it. He kept it until it was full grown, and then killed it : it weighed four hundred pounds. But young Harmon never entirely got over his fright from the old bear.

On another occasion, a man named Edgar and myself went to the mountains to gather chestnuts; he had a dog with him. We had not gone far into the mountains when the dog gave us to understand that game was near. Edgar said he thought it was a panther [now called mountain lion], and would hiss the dog on that he might tree it, as they were very easy animals to tree. We heard the dog bark once, and presently we saw him coming back as fast as he could, and bear close at his heels, snapping at him at every jump. The dog, in order to save himself, ran between Edgar's legs; and the bear ran against him and knocked him over. The bear soon discovered that she was among enemies, and, starting off, ran some distance from us before I could shoot; but I soon "drew a bead," when a shot from my gun laid her dead. A bear will fight harder and more bravely for their young than any other animal. The panther is a very cowardly animal; a small dog can run one off at any time. I once found [page 30] in a cave seven young panthers, and took hold of them, upon which they made a great noise; but the old ones, although they

showed themselves, would not come near enough for me to get a shot. A young panther, when as large as a full grown cat, is spotted like a fawn.

In conclusion, I will give a brief account of a battle that Linsy Carson, father of the notable Kit Carson, had with the Fox Indians at a place on Black Water creek, (now in Macon County,) Missouri. The Indians had stolen several horses from some of the citizens of Howard county. Carson, with his rangers, went in pursuit of them, and found them encamped on black water. Carson sent one James Cockerel as a spy to reconnoiter the Indians, who reported, on his return, that the Indians were playing bandy. Carson then ordered that one man to every five horses should stay and hold them, while the others should go into battle. As there were two Indians to one white man, three of the latter concluded that it would not be safe to go into action, so started off and took a position on a neighboring height from whence they could see the fight. Carson's attack took the Indians by surprise; but they soon rallied, and the warriors divided into three bands, and came very near surrounding the whites. Cockerel first saw that danger, and gave instant notice to Carson, who at once ordered a retreat towards their horses, which was safely effected; but just as they reached them, an Indian fired and the ball took off two of Carson's fingers. The Indians came on shouting and laughing, expecting an easy capture; but Cockerel assisted Carson in getting on his horse, and all made their escape but the three men who would not fight.

**Chapter II**  
**Judge Alexander Persinger**

Judge Alexander Persinger was the son of Jacob Persinger Jr. This chapter comprises in its entirety the text from court documents of Boone County Missouri.

BOONE COUNTY COURT  
September 5, 1860  
Page 463, Book N



**A**lexander Persinger a former Justice of the Boone County Court asked permission of the Court to deliver an address to said Court and his friends and fellow citizens which is granted him which he proceeded to do whereupon at the close of said address on motion of Francis T. Russell esquire the Court requested a copy of said address for the purpose of having the same spread on the Journals of this Court and ordered that the Clerk of his Court put the same to record and also that he permit the Editor of the Niepouri States man to have a copy of the same for publication and the address being delivered to the Clerk of this Court is in words and figures, to wit:



Fellow Citizens: It is not uncommon, when speakers rise to address an audience, no difference what the occasion may be, for them first of all to say that they have been solicited by numerous friends to speak. This is too much hackneyed for a modern apology. I have no excuse or apology to make. The main object I have in view in rising at this time is to take leave of my associates on the Bench and thus publicly to make my grateful acknowledgement to my support with which they have complimented me ever since I have been a citizen of the County. I think I can say with some propriety that few public men have had more steadfast friends or more confiding constituents than I have. Another object I have in view is to assure you that other and higher considerations, than the compensation allowed by law, have induced me to continue in office the length of time I have, now about thirty five years.

I hope I will not tax your time and patience too much in briefly stating in this connection, the circumstances surrounding my father in early life - some of them quite singular - that you may see thereby that he could not have accumulated sufficient property, after educating a large family, to afford much assistance to his children. During the war on this continent between the English and French, commonly known as Braddock's war, he was taken prisoner by the Shawnee Indians. He was then about six years old, and so small that he could not ride on horseback; hence they tied him on their pack horses and carried him to Fort Duquense [By the late 1740's, the British traders had built a trading post where the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers meet and form the Ohio River (in present day Pittsburgh). This soon became an important trading post due to its location and was considered the last outpost before the western frontier.

The French didn't want the British to have any trading posts in the territory that they claimed and in 1754, attacked the trading post and named it Fort Duquense. By 1758, the British captured Fort Duquense during the French and Indian War. Once the British captured the fort, they renamed it Fort Pitt, after the British prime minister at the time, William Pitt. The fort served as an outpost for those travelling down the Ohio River. With the threat of war gone, more and more people moved to the town surrounding the fort and Pittsburgh soon became a city., which stood upon the present site of the City of Pittsburgh, and which was then in the possession of the French. Then they carried him to Chillicothe on the Sciola River, now in the State of Ohio, and which was then the principal town of the Shawnees.

This account of his captivity was obtained from him after his return at the close of the war: For no relation knew or claimed him, and a man by the name of Persinger residing in the western part of Virginia took him into his family from the Indians, and adopted him. He was then about ten years old. He remained with his adopted father, Persinger, until he was able to provide for himself; was known by his name and from this circumstances originated the family of Persinger of which I am one.

Soon after my father was grown the Revolutionary war came on, and being much disturbed in mind in consequence of not knowing or finding his genuine kinsmen, he entered the army and was engaged in guarding the western frontiers of Virginia till peace was made.

You who are conversant with the history of the Revolution need not be told that the continental Congress, created a paper currency, designed continental money, to enable the government to carry on the wars. Every person who furnished any thing to support the government, the officers and soldiers, had to receive for their compensation this money. Before and after the conclusion of the war this currency depreciated in value until it came down to one dollar for a thousand; so you see the condition in which our Revolutionary fathers were left at the end of the war.

Now as to myself, before I came to Boone County, I made my first settlement in Montgomery County in 1820. In the spring of 1824 the citizens prevailed on me to become a candidate for a seat in the town branch of the Legislature, it being the first revising session under the Constitution. I was elected. During that session the law was passed creating Probate Courts throughout the state. As soon as the passage of that law was known, recommendations were received by the Representatives of the different Counties for appointments to fill said offices. These were filled by the Governor. I received a letter from the clerk of the county court of Montgomery county and another from a particular friend, requesting me to use my influence with the Governor, Frederick Bates, to obtain the office for him, which I did, and the Governor appointed the Clerk of the court and I am gratified to know that that man holds the office of Clerk of the County Court to this day. During that session I had an opportunity of learning something concerning the ability of your former Clerk of this County Court, Judge Woodson; I came to Boone County proposed in his favor. I have been intimately connected with him in office for near a quarter of a century, and have had no occasion to change the opinion then formed. I served two sessions in the Legislature, and about five or six years was a member of the County Court before I came to this County. To faithfully discharge the duties of County Court Judge is no child's play. The fact is it is the most important office to the masses of the people known to the law; and in from it I feel that I am relieved of very enormous responsibilities, which I have always endeavored honestly and faithfully to discharge.

Court adjourned.

**Chapter III**  
**David Glassburn – Virginia Pioneer**

This chapter comprises of most of chapter XII of Oma Glassburn Robinson's book titled:

David Glassburn – Virginia Pioneer  
By Oma Glassburn Robinson  
Printed by The Ward Ritchie Press  
Los Angeles, 1964

**Chapter XII**  
**MARY PERSINGER**  
1805-1871

[page 109]

**M**ary Persinger, oldest daughter of Andrew and Martha (Terry) Persinger, was born 27 May, 1805, in Botetourt County, Virginia; died 8 August 1871, in Johnson County, Indiana; married in Covington, Virginia, 16 November 1820, Frederick Glasburn (see Chapter XI), the Rev. Elisha Knox officiating. They had seven children: Peter, Joseph, Samuel, Nancy Ellen, Martha, David, and Andrew Jackson, the first six being born in Virginia and the seventh in Indiana. A year or so after the death of the pioneer David Glasburn, they came to Indiana in 1834 where both lived the rest of their days.

The following facts which I give concerning Persingers in our line are based mainly on two sources:

First, on letters in my possession from relatives who have lived all their lives in Virginia: Mrs. Emma (Persinger) Rose of Blue Spring Run, Mr. Robert Lee Persinger and Mr. Henry Pleasant Persinger, both of Covington, and Mr. A Watson Persinger of Waynesboro, the last named being a first cousin of my father who had been interested in his ancestors and during his spare moments had done considerable genealogical research.

Secondly, on some unpublished related matter and on reliable publications among which is Centennial History of Alleghany County, Virginia, written by Mr. O. F. Morton. This book is reported to be not only conservative but accurate in its statements of facts.

Mary (Persinger) Glasburn's father was Andrew Persinger whose wife's first name was Martha. That is a fact that I had known from childhood for my father often told me that his sister, Martha, was named for his Grandmother Persinger. But I did not have the slightest idea as to her maiden name. However, Mr. A. Watson Persinger wrote me that her maiden name was Terry. And later, Mr. Henry Pleasant Persinger whose second wife was a

*Terry* (Edith Pearl) confirmed this. But since neither could recall Martha's father's first name, and to date I have been unable to locate marriage bonds for Andrew and Martha (*Terry*) Persinger, I have been unable to verify this statement. I accept it assuming that in all probability it is correct. [page 110] I have many times come across the name, *Terry*, in the early records of Botetourt, and some of the *Terry* land adjoined that of the Persingers.

Andrew and Martha (*Terry*) Persinger were the parents of seven children: Mary (the subject of this chapter), Martin, Aaron, Zebidee (the father of Mr. A. Watson Persinger see chapter VI), John, Martha, and Nash. I do not believe these children are in their chronological order, but since names of children were not listed on census reports until 1850, I have no way of correcting it. Also I do not have much information concerning them, but I shall mention what facts I have hoping thereby to give a lead to others who might be trying to find a right Persinger from among the many. In "Residents of 1840" for Alleghany County, under *Persinger* are the names of Aaron, Marton (Martin) and Zebidee. I believe these three Persingers are three sons of Andrew in the above list of children. According to Mr. A. Watson Persinger, all followed farming for a living.

In a letter which he wrote me in the fall of 1934, he stated: "If you want to learn of John Persinger's family, write to John Persinger of White Rock, Arkansas. You may not be able to get him, but you may get in touch with his son, John Persinger, Jr., but I am inclined to think John Persinger is dead now as he was an old man then, and that has been a good while ago."

"For Martin Persinger, write to Lewisburg, West Virginia, and you are likely to get in touch with some Persinger there, but I don't know their names. For Nash Persinger, I think that all his family are deceased, and that same for Aaron Persinger."

I wrote as above directed, both to John and to Martin, and the letters were returned unopened to me. Mr. Henry Pleasant Persinger wrote me in 1935 that Aaron had two sons, Wood and Douglas, but that they were dead. However, they had descendants who lived within fifteen miles of him. But not knowing their names, I made no attempt to contact any of them. Martha was not mentioned by either Henry Pleasant Persinger or by A. Watson Persinger. So I have no information on her.

Andrew Persinger, according to A. Watson Persinger, was "buried up on Nuckoll's Knob on the nine-hundred acres that was taken up by Jacob Persinger as at the time of his death, he lived in that vicinity. [page 111] My father (Zebidee) was also buried in that burring ground. I have not been there for years, and I am sure that there are no markers to indicate those buried there." Further on, he adds: "I know almost every foot of that section of country. It is very steep and somewhat rough, but the most productive in the country... It is known as Rich Patch."

All of my reports from Virginia relatives agree with Mr. Morton on one fact, namely, that Andrew Persinger's father was the above mentioned Jacob Persinger, the Jacob who had applied for a patent for the 924 acres of land. However, they state that the father of this Jacob was Jacob Sr., who had originally come from Switzerland while Mr. Morton states that the father of this Jacob who applied for a patent for this 924 acres of land was Henry, and that Henry was the son of the original Jacob who had come from Switzerland. In other words, Mr. Morton puts an extra generation in his brief resume of the Persingers in his Centennial History of Alleghany County, Virginia (page 134f.), which is as follows:

*(See Chapter V for the excerpt of Centennial History of Alleghany County, Virginia)*

Note that in the above quoted passage, Mr. Morton places a Henry as the son of the Jacob who first came to these shores, and he places "Jr." after the Henry who is a son of Jacob. Mr. A. Watson Persinger in a letter of May 5, 1934, states: "I am the son of Zeb. D. Persinger) and Mary Persinger was his oldest sister. Andrew Persinger was my grandfather, and Jacob Persinger was my great-grandfather." And further on, he assumes that the Jacob who came over from Switzerland was the father of this Jacob, and his great-great-grandfather.

In a letter of March 10, 1935, Mrs. Emma (Persinger) Rose states: "My great-great-grandfather was Jacob Persinger with whom a story of interest is connected. His wife and two children were carried away by the Indians, and were never heard of again. My great-grandfather was Jacob, Jr. His children were Henry, Charlotte, William, James, Alexander, John, Andrew, and Jeremiah. Alexander went to Indiana."

[page 113] Mrs. Rose continues: "In 1798 my great-grandfather patented 924 acres of land in Alleghany County. On a part of this, my grandfather who was Henry Persinger, lived and reared a family of three children—two sons: Charles and John; and one daughter, Elizabeth who married an Arritt. My father was John who lived all his life on the old homestead and raised his family consisting of six children, namely: Charles, Mary, Emma which is myself, Henry, Lavina, and Georgia.

'I forgot to add, the greater portion of at least several of those mentioned are buried on the old homestead. My Father died ten years ago at the age of 83 and was, too, buried on the lands that were taken up by Jacob Persinger."

In the above two quotations from Mr. A. Watson Persinger and Mrs. Emma Rose, it is pointed out quite clearly that our Persinger line is as follows:

*(See Appendix C for the genealogy charts)*

Note that Mr. Morton has a "Henry" between the two "Jacobs." But he is cautious in his statement concerning the sons of the original Jacob from

Switzerland: "Abraham and Philip were sons, and in all [page 114] probability, Christopher and Henry were other sons" (page 135). From this statement one could infer that he was not absolutely certain or he would not have placed the phrase "in all probability" before Henry when speaking of him as the son of the original Jacob from Switzerland. Hence, I am inclined to go along with the statement of my relatives in Virginia and place Mary Persinger Glassburn's ancestors as Jacob / Jacob, Jr., / Andrew. This Henry does exist for I have a copy of his will, but I think he could have been a son of one of the other Persingers who settled in Alleghany (then Botetourt) County. One cannot be absolutely sure, for there were so very many Persingers in this region at that time.

In fact, they are so numerous that I do not believe any one will ever get them straightened out from a genealogical point of view. At one time I thought I could do this from the Census Records, but on page (204) of the Census Report for Alleghany County 1810, there are four Jacob Persingers—three with Sr., after their names, and one with "the Younger" after his. The first Jacob, Sr., listed has 23 members in his family. The second has 24 members in his family, the thirds has only four, while "Jacob, the Younger," has only two. And in that census only heads of families were listed. How could anyone separate and differentiate all of these Jacobs? To say nothing of the Henrys and the Andrews!

To complicate matters even more there was a Jacob Persinger who was not a Persinger at all and this Jacob Persinger should not be in this chapter. But since he was adopted by a Widow Persinger and given the name of Jacob Persinger, the name of her lost son, and since he grew up being known by that name, and all his eleven children bear the Persinger name, I shall briefly give sufficient facts about him to clear up, if possible, some of the confusion existing between the descendants of this Jacob Persinger who was an adopted Jacob Persinger, and the descendants of the Jacob Persinger who came from Switzerland and who is in our direct line. Mr. O.F. Morton, in his *Annals of Bath County, Virginia*, tells the story of this Jacob Persinger who was a Godfrey and then adds: "The story is probably correct in the main. Although an older Jacob Persinger was the pioneer of that name on Potts Creek" (p. 185). This older Persinger to whom this statement refers is the Jacob who came from Switzerland and is in our direct line.

[page 115] I am greatly indebted to Miss Josephine Fudge of Chicago who sent me a copy of the final *Will* of this Jacob Persinger (Godfrey) which names all his children, also his application for a pension for his services in the Revolutionary War, and a "Biography of Jacob Persinger" which was taken from a longer biography written by his son, Joseph, of Missouri, along with "A Short Story of Jacob Persinger" which she, herself, had written. Then I am indebted also to Mrs. Mabel (Persinger) Covington, of Danville, Va., who kindly sent me her *Application Chart* for membership in the D.A.R. through this Jacob Persinger along with a story of the unveiling of a tablet by the Ann Bailey Chapter of D.A.R. near her home in 1930 honoring this Jacob Persinger (Godfrey). Robert Lee Persinger of Covington also sent me a

certified copy of the "Trial of the Negro, Daniel Wright (known as Blue) for the Murder of his Master, Col. John Persinger," this John Persinger being the oldest son of the Jacob Persinger who is the adopted Persinger. **All of the above documents make most interesting reading, and should be published some day by someone.**

This Jacob Persinger, when a child three years old was stolen from his father's place in Pennsylvania by the Shawnee Indians and taken to Old Chillicothe [Chillicothe was the name of several historic towns in Ohio. The word is from the Shawnee language giving the name for one of their clans. The main chief of the Shawnees could only come from the "Chillicothe" clan. When a village was called Chillicothe it meant that it was home to the principal chief. It was the "capitol city" of the Shawnees until the death of that chief. Then the capitol would move to the home village of the next main chief. That village would then be called "Chillicothe." One Chillicothe was a Shawnee town located on the site of the modern city of Piqua. Another was on the Scioto River south of Circleville at, or near, modern Westfall. A third Chillicothe was about three miles north of Xenia. When Simon Kenton was taken prisoner in 1778 the Shawnee brought him to this Shawnee town. A fourth Chillicothe was at Frankfort along Paint Creek in Ross County. A fifth Chillicothe was at Hopetown three miles north of the modern city of Chillicothe. Modern Chillicothe was Ohio's first state capitol, but it was never the site of a former Shawnee town.], Ohio. He lived with them until he was about fourteen years old when, under the Treaty of Paris, in 1763, all prisoners held by Colonials and French and Indians had to be exchanged. He was taken to Clifton Forge, Va., but no one claimed him, so he stole away to the Indians, but again the Chief returned him. This happened twice. The last time he was taken by a widow Persinger who had lost her son, and was given the name of her lost son, Jacob Persinger. He spoke only Shawnee, and she spoke only German. He, being unaccustomed to the "White method of living" was very unhappy at first and built for himself a wigwam or teepee and lived in it, but gradually as he came to understand the language, he took up the ways of the settlers and in time, he married Mary Kimberlane and they had eleven children.

But he never ceased to search for his parents. He learned of a family by that name of Godfrey in Southern Pennsylvania who had had a child stolen by the Indians at about the time he was stolen, and of about the same age. The Godfrey boy was playing about his father's mill when he was taken, and Jacob Persinger remembered that he [page 116] was at his father's mill when the Indians took him. Then there had been a scar of a snake bite on the Godfrey boy's heel, and Jacob Persinger had a similar scar. When Jacob Persinger visited the place, he found that the family had been gone for many years. But the facts that he learned concerning them connected up with what he, himself, could remember, and convinced him that he was the lost Godfrey son. He got a certificate of the recorded birth date of the Godfrey boy, Jan. 19, 1749, and adopted it as the date of his birth, but he retained the name of Jacob Persinger.

His eleven children as named in his *Will* are John, (killed by the Negro Blue), Sally, Nancy, and Granville.

To save space I will not give the names of the children of all of his children, but only those of the second son listed above whose name is Andrew. Since I was at first trying to find the Andrew Persinger who was the father of Mary Persinger, my grandmother, and the subject of this chapter, I felt sure that this Andrew should be her father. But from the above sources, I was informed that this Andrew had married Elizabeth Stickleman and they were the parents of fifteen children—all Persingers—as follows: Alexander, Andrew, Joseph, Brown, Jacob, John, David, Rebecca, Johanna, Elizabeth, Jane, Granville, Frances, and Virginia. This lists only fourteen, but when there are so many, it is always possible to leave out one and not miss that one!

The above details of the early life of the Jacob Persinger who was a Godfrey, along with the list of his children given in his *Will*, and those of his second son, Andrew Persinger, will, it is hoped, assist in clarifying a very confused picture for future researchers.

Since my father, David Glassburn, had always told me that Mary Persinger, his mother, spoke the German language fluently, I grew up thinking of her as of German nationality. I happened to mention this fact in a letter to Mr. A. Watson Persinger, and he was quite chagrined. In his next letter he not only assured me that they were Swiss, but that they had always prided themselves on being Swiss and not German, and he wanted to know where I ever I ever got the ideas that they were German! His statement proved to be accurate—which is true of practically all of his statements—as the following quotation will show:

“List of Switzers to arrive in Philidelphia on the Ship called MERCURY. Captian William Wilson. Qualified May 29, 1735.” Among the list of passengers there was the name of our Jacob Persinger:

“Jacob Perdschinger age 19 years”  
(Jacob Persinger)

Thus, when he landed in Philadelphia from Switzerland on May 29, 1735, he was 19 years old. That would place his date of birth in 1716. In those days “it took twenty-eight weeks to cross the ocean.”

I should add that our Jacob Persinger’s name is also found in Rupp’s book on page 98: “May 29, 1735. Palatines & Switzers imported in the Ship MERCURY, William Wilson, Master, from Rotterdam last near Cowes.—64 men, 51 women, 37 boys and 34 girls. In all 186.” Among the list of passengers:

“Jacob Persdschinger\*” (Jacob Persinger)

The star after the name is place there “to distinguish names written by clerk from autographs, this \* (star) has been applied to the former.” (page 40)



This shows that Jacob Persinger's name was written by a clerk. But since he had grown up in Switzerland, he would have written only in the German script which is almost unintelligible to one not trained in reading it, hence, his name being written by a clerk, does not show that he was not capable of writing his own name—it merely means that he did not write in the script used in the ship's book.

While Mr. Morton speaks of only three original Persingers (see page 134 of Chapter V) coming to these shores, Mr. A. Watson Persinger writes: "There were four Persingers originally, as I have been taught from childhood who came together, and Jacob Persinger, Sr., was one of the four. In coming from Pennsylvania down to Virginia one of the settled in Roanoke County; the other three located in Botetourt County, the part which is now Alleghany." Could this fourth one have been the John Persinger of Roanoke County? This point calls for further research.

Tradition has it that the original Jacob Persinger's first wife's name was unknown, but that she was the mother of all his children. She, [page 118] along with two small children, was stolen by the Indians and they were never heard from again. Mrs. Emma Rose, in her letter to me stated that her "great-great-grandfather was Jacob Persinger... whose wife and two children were carried away by the Indians and were never heard of again." My father told me many stories about the Indian atrocities in those days, none of which I connected directly with any specific relative, although felt strongly that they all very much concerned them rather closely. However, I was especially interested in this tradition, namely, that the first wife of the Immigrant Jacob Persinger was stolen by the Indians along with her two small children and was never heard of again. I thought that this fact should be on record somewhere. Finally I found it! In Morton's Alleghany County (page 133) I came across the following: "If we follow the document known as the *Preston Register*—and his authority is very high—the most destructive raid upon Jackson's river occurred near the middle of September, 1756. On the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> of that month, Ensign Madison was killed... Two days later, nine persons were killed. These were Nicholas Carpenter,... The captives were Mrs. Byrd and six children, Mrs. Kincaid and three children, Mr. Persinger and two children." (I omit several names.) On the following page, he states that "Mrs. Persinger was never heard from. A tradition in the family says that a part of her dress was found on a rock. This is entirely credible, since it was a practice of the Indians to shorten the skirts of a woman prisoner in order that she might travel faster."

In the Virginia Historical Magazine, vol. II, (Published by the Virginia Historical Society for the year ending June, 1895, Richmond, Virginia), on page 402, there is "A Register of the persons who have been either killed, wounded or take Prisoner by the enemy in Augusta County . As also such as have made their escape.

"1756: September 11, 12, 13 & 14.

Nicholas Carpenter, Jackson's River. Killed.

3 children named Persinger, Jackson's river. Killed.  
Joseph Carpenter, Jackson's River, Prisoner, escaped.  
Mrs. Persinger & 2 children. Jackson's river, Prisoner.  
5 children, called Carpenter, Jackson's' River, Prisoner"

The "Mrs. Persinger and two children" mentioned in this list must be Jacob Persinger's wife and their two children.

[page 119] In *The Papers of Col. Henry Bouquet* published by the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, (Harrisburg, 1943) on page 250, there is "A list of prisoners at the Lower Shawana Towns," which includes a "Mary Pringers and two children." I have checked the indices of the books of the early records of Augusta County and find no *Pringers*. Since all of those pioneer records were in handwriting and easily misinterpreted, this name given as *Pringer* was, I believe, Persinger. In the first place, there is a such a similarity—the first letter is identical and the last five are identical. The small letter r in early writing was one of the most difficult to be interpreted, for it was made with a varied number of curves—sometimes almost none, sometimes with one or sometimes with tow or three. In the second place, and this is the most likely explanation—in the early the when writing was a tedious task, it was the custom to use the apostrophe to shorten words. This was especially done after the letter "p," and meant *par* or *per*. For example, p'ty = party; p'annum = per annum; p'form = perform. So in all probability this is what happened in the Henry Bouquet manuscript, the word Persinger being written with the P followed by an apostrophe, thus: Psinger. But the "s" has been misread as an "r", and the apostrophe has been ignored altogether. Hence we have Pringer instead of Persinger for which it was intended. In the third place, all known facts surrounding the story are identical: The time of her disappearance, her being accompanied by two children, and being taken by the Shawnee Indians. Therefore this "Mary Pringer" mentioned in the records of Henry Bouquet is beyond question Mary Persinger, the first wife of the Immigrant, Jacob Persinger. Tradition always mentioned her just as "Mrs. Persinger," never giving her first name, but this excerpt from Henry Bouquet, whose records are the most authoritative in existence concerning those early Indian raids, lets us know beyond doubt hat her first name was Mary. Her last name (her maiden name) will probably never be known since so many early records have been destroyed, but her first name, Mary, will always be of keen interest to her many descendants. The probabilities are very great that my grandmother, Mary (Persinger) Glasburn, was named for her, since she was the oldest daughter of Andrew Persinger who was well acquainted with the family story of his grandmother having been carried away by the Indians.

Jacob Persinger married a second time, ca. 1760, to Catharine [page 120] Pence, the widow of Jacob Pence who died ca. 1750. It is of interest to note here that his daughter, Catharine, married Jacob Pence, the son for the widow Pence. Jacob Persinger's name appears often in the early records of Botetourt County, for he bought land and sold land; he acted in lawsuits and in the settling of estates. He tried to get an equitable settlement for the death

of his two sons, Abraham and Philip. He participated in the Indian wars of 1754-55-56-57. He was also active in church work. In the important "German Record Book of the Peaked Mountain (Lutheran Church," (William & Mary Magazine (I) Volume 13, page 247) he is listed as an Elder in 1762. elders in that day had important civil duties to perform such as "processing of land, and seeing after the poor." Hence, it gave one a prominent position in his community, as well as placing responsibility on his shoulders. This also shows that he had been a faithful member of this church for some time.

It is stated by some that he died I. 1774, but I would question this, for at that time he would have been only 58 years old. According to Kegley in his Virginia Frontiers (page 277), "Jacob Persinger proved himself and two sons, Abraham and Philip, in Capt. Dickenson's Company. 1780." Assuming this to be correct, it proves that he did not die in 1774. And this was the Pioneer Jacob from Switzerland, for as is proven by numerous references (Hening, Morton, Summers, etc.) It was this Jacob who was the father of these two sons.

In the State Library in Richmond, Virginia, (Genealogical Section) I copied from Reel 23 (microfilm) the following:

"COUNTY OF BOTETOURT J. Persinger

Jacob Persinger, Dec'd Debtor to Christian Persinger.

1789

To wintering the said stock of Deceased:

To	1 mare	3 lbs.	0
	4 heads cattle	2 lbs.	10 shillings
	4 hogs		11 shillings
	1 sheep		10 shillings

-----  
6 lbs. 01 shilings

'At a court held for Botetourt County the 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 1789 the within account was produced in Court by Christopher Persinger, Deceased has against him the same Christopher, and the same is ordered to be recorded.

Teste: T. Bowyer, C.B.C."

[page 121] This is an instance of another Jacob Persinger whose estate is being settled in 1789. Might this one not be the Jacob Persinger who came from Switzerland? Also there is the estate of still another Jacob Persinger being settled in 1803. This one, also, might be that of the Jacob Persinger who came from Switzerland. In 1803, he would have been only 87 years old which is a plausible age for a Persinger whose family is noted for its longevity. However, since there are so many unpublished records in Richmond, Virginia, concerning these early pioneers, exact facts as well as dates are difficult to come by. Without them, and especially in dealing with a surname of which there is such a numerous progeny and when so many of this progeny have the same first name, as in the case of *Jacob Persinger*, I believe exact dates or certain dates attached to a specific person should not be insisted on unless authenticated. I would hesitate to make a statement as

to when this Jacob Persinger who was Mary Persinger Glassburn's great-grandfather passed away. I do think the 1774 date is entirely too early. More research is needed to establish the exact date.

I shall omit the "Henry" who is placed by Mr. Morton as the second generation between the Jacob from Switzerland and Jacob, Jr., for neither Mr. A. Watson Persinger nor Mrs. Emma (Persinger) rose included him, and I agree with them that to include him would make too many generations. And the research that I have done convinces me that they are correct.

There is unanimous agreement that Jacob was the father of the Andrew Persinger in our line. This Jacob, Mary Persinger Glassburn's grandfather, has been, I believe more or less overshadowed by the other Jacob Persinger (Godfrey) and has not received the credit due him. When Mrs. Emma (Persinger) Rose wrote me that her father, John, had lived all his days on a part of "Rich Patch," which was originally owned by her great grandfather, Jacob Persinger, Jr., I concluded that this was the 924 acres for which Jacob, Jr., had applied for a patent in 1798, and that he was in our branch of the Persinger Family.

I had for some time been interested in a statement found on page 461 of L. P. Summers' *Annals of Southeast Virginia*, which is as follows: "Jacob Persinger resigns as Captain of the Militia, May 13, 1795." The Persingers who are descendants of the Jacob Persinger who was a Godfrey tried to link this statement with their Jacob but they were never able to do so. This statement, I believe, refers to the [page 122] Jacob Persinger in our line and if so, it means that he served as Captain in the Militia in the Revolutionary War. Here are some reasons for this conclusion.

In the first place, according to the *Land Grant Office, Book 47, 1800-1801*, (Richmond, Virginia), two hundred and seventy eight acres (278) of this 924 acres of land was acquired by Jacob Persinger by Land Office Warrants, as follows:

154 acres by Land Office Warrant 17,177 June 16, 1783  
50 acres by Land Office Warrant 8,249 Mar. 18, 1782  
64 acres by Land Office Warrant 10,841 Dec. 14, 1781

Since officers were granted larger acreage on their warrants for their service, it seems to me that these three warrants point strongly to the supposition that they were those of an officer. And that officer in this case was the Jacob persinger who resigned as "Captain of the Militia in 1795."

Secondly, this land which is mentioned in the Grant (a photostat of which I have in my possession) is described as "in the County of Botetourt in *Rich Patch* on the waters of Potts Creek, a branch of Jackson's River on the head waters of Barber's Creek, a branch of Craig's Creek, which is a branch of the James River." Mr. A. Watson Persinger, in his letters, refers to the land owned by the Jacob Persinger in our line as being always known as "Rich Patch," which statement accords with the above quotation from the deed. In

*Centennial History of Alleghany County, Virginia*, Mr. Morton lists this I and as follows (page 18):

“Jacob Persinger – Rich Patch – 924 – 1798.”

These three statements show that Rich Patch was owned by the Jacob Persinger who was in our direct line and who was the father of Andrew, and the grandfather of Mary.

In the third place, Mr. Henry Pleasant Persinger wrote me on May 25, 1935 and in speaking of this “924 acres owned by the above Jacob” state that “I (H. P. Persinger) a son of John Persinger, now live on a part of this 924 acre farm, north of Nuckoll’s Knob.” This shows that this land had been in our line of Persingers for some generations, and still is.

In the fourth place, when Joseph Persinger of Missouri, a son of the Jacob Persinger who was a Godfrey, was writing the *Life of* [page 123] *Jacob Persinger*, he started out by stating that “Corporal Jacob Persinger was born in Southern Pennsylvannia on January 19, 1749 and died in Alleghany County, Virginia in the early part of the year, 1841.” This statement that he was a Corporal coming be questioned as to its veracity and authenticity. In the fifth place, when Jacob Persinger (Godfrey) made his application for a pension for his service in the Revolutionary War on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 1833, he, himself, stated that he was a “Corporal in Captain Matthew Arbuckles Virginia Company.” This statement must again be accepted for it was a statement taken under oath.

Fuller evidence is to be found in the verbatim application, itself, which is now listed as MS No. 2ZZ51, in the *Preston and Virginia Papers*, in the Draper Collection of Manuscripts at the Wisconsin State Historical Library. I have a Photostat of it. Here he states in part “That he enlisted in the Army of the Revolution on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year 1775 with Captain Matthew Arbuckle and served as Corporal in the Company commanded by aid Captain... he left the services on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, 1776...He received a written discharge from Captain Arbuckle...he then returned to the place where he enlisted and where he has lived ever since.”

According to this statement, the Jacob Persinger who was a Godfrey, was a Corporal. His son, Joseph, stated that his rank was Corporal, and he, himself, affirmed it in his sworn application for his pension in 1833. He claimed no other rank. He also stated in this sworn application that he left the service in November, 1776, and returned home “where he has been ever since.” According to these two facts, namely, (1) that his rank was Corporal, and (2) that he quit the service in 1776, it is obvious that it was the Jacob Persinger in our line who resigned as Captain of the Militia on May 13, 1795. It was he who held this rank.

Both Captain Jacob Persinger, Jr., and Corporal Jacob Persinger who was a Godfrey were brave heroic men. Both should be given full credit and should

be honored for their brave deeds, but neither [page 124] should be identified as the other—a thing which, I am afraid, has happened often in this case. Naturally, it was a terrible thing when Jacob Persinger (Godfrey), at the age of three was stolen by the Indians, and never saw his father or mother again. But it must be remembered that the mother of Jacob Persinger, Jr., along with two smaller children in the family, was taken prisoner, and was never heard of again. Both terrible tragedies.

The following is an illuminating example of the confusion that can arise when two people are identified as one when they have the same name, live in the same community or county, and are relatively of the same age: “Jacob Persinger enlisted as a second lieutenant in 1775, serving under Captain Matthew Arbuckle and Lieutenant Andrew Wallace. He left the service in November, 1776. His tour included Pittsburg and Point Pleasant, and Muddy Creek in Greenbrier.” This statement obviously refers to both Corporal Jacob Persinger who was a Godfrey and to Capt. Jacob Persinger in our line. The dates in it are the same as those on the pension application in 1833 (joined in 1775—left the service in 1776) of the Jacob who was a Godfrey while the military rank of Second Lieutenant belongs to the Jacob, Jr., in our line who was later promoted to Captain. As for the tour of duty, both might have participated in that, for after the Battle of Point Pleasant, a garrison was kept for a few years at that strategic point. But in using the dates of one and the military rank of the other, one man is completely blotted out. That is, only one Jacob Persinger remains, when as a matter of fact, there were two Jacob Persingers—the one who was the son of the Immigrant, and the other, the adopted son. Both should be given their just dues.

Another similar example should be mentioned here. Only one Jacob Persinger (Godfrey) is spoken of in connection with the Battle of Point Pleasant. Since, according to historians, all able bodied men from Botetourt County participated, surely the Jacob Persinger in our line was also there. The fact that he is not mentioned could be due to two things: (1) Incomplete records, and lost records. (2) Duplication of the name where both were taken for one and the same person. Hence, only one Jacob Persinger remained. Both were undoubtedly participants.

One more significant fact should be noted in connection with the Jacob Persinger in our direct line. Although he received the above [page 125] mentioned *Land Warrants*, he never applied for a pension. There is no record of such application in the Archives in Washington, D.C. Perhaps he was among those who like my great-grandfather, the Pioneer David Glasburn, felt that he was only doing his duty for his country and wanted no further reward.

The Jacob Persinger in our line played his role well. He participated throughout the whole of the Revolutionary War as did the Pioneer David Glasburn, and I think, if it were not for the confusion of names, he would also be among those who fought in the Battle of Point Pleasant. He married

Elizabeth—last name unknown—and was the father of eight children. Andrew, his next to youngest son, was Mary Persinger's father.

**Chapter IV**  
**Jacob Persinger Pension Certificate**

Jacob's Pension Certificate application, which he made for his service in the Revolution.

**Virginia Alleghany County Court November term 1833**

**State of Virginia Alleghany County [unknown word]**

On this 18th day of November 1833. Personally appeared before the justices of the County court of said county (being a court of record). Jacob Persinger, a resident of said county aged 84 years, who being first duly sworn according to law duth by his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of congress past seventh June 1832; that he enlisted the army of the revolution on the sixth of September in the year 1775 with Captain Mathew Arbuckle, and served as a corporal in the company commanded by the said captain Matthew Arbuckle, and Andrew Wallace first lieutenant [first name is blank] Wood second lieutenant, John Galloway third lieutenant, and Samuel Walker Ensign of the Virginia state line; The regiment was commanded by Major Newell, but does not recollect its number. He left the service on the eleventh of November 1776. He lived in the county of Botetourt (now Alleghany) state of Virginia; at the time he entered the service he marched from the place he enlisted to Greenbrier County Virginia (then Botetourt) from thence he marched to Fort Pitt in the state of Pennsylvania for the purpose of obtaining a supply of provisions, and thence to point Pleasant in the state of Virginia, where he was stationed, and there remained until his discharge; he received a written discharge from his captain Arbuckle, which he has since lost, he then returned to the place where he resided when he enlisted, and where he has lived ever since; he was in no engagement with the enemy during the service, the Fort at Point Pleasant was attacked by the Indians, but he was not present at the time; He was born in the state of Pennsylvania in the year 1749; He has a register [possibly a birth certificate] of his age at home; he is unable to prove the fact of his services, by any living witness and the best testimony he can produce is the affidavit of Conrad Fudge and David Bowyer, two of his neighbors to whom he is well known, which accompanies this declaration. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

[signature] Jacob Persinger

We Conrad Fudge [most likely a son in-law married to Elizabeth who is Jacob's daughter] and David Bowyer residents in the County of Alleghany in the sate of Virginia do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Jacob



Persinger who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be 84 years of age that he is respected and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

[signed by his mark which was an X] David Bowyer  
[signature of] Conrad Fudge

[a paragraph was here regarding the validating of the preceding and the rights to the pension were unreadable]

I Andrew Fudge clerk of the court of Alleghany County hereby certify that the forgoing contains the... [there appears to be missing page(s)]

Pension Certificate Number 23252

Jacob Persinger of Alleghany County in the state of Virginia who was a Corporal commanded by Captain Arbuckle of the regiment commanded by Newell in the Virginia line for fourteen months and fifteen days.

Inscribed on the roll of Virginia at the rate of \$51.94 per annum to commence on the fourth day of March 1831.

Certificate of Pension issued the eleventh day of December 1833 and sent honorable S. Mc?Morre [could not read entire name].

Arrears to the fourth of September 1833 - \$129.85  
Semiannual allowance ending March 1834 - \$25.97  
Totaling \$155.82

Revolutionary Claims act June 7, 1832

Recorded by clerk [first name not readable] Rice Book E Volume 6 1/2 or G 1/2 Page 28

**Chapter V**  
**Will of Jacob Persinger Jr.**

LDS FILM F 030509 ALLEGHANY COUNTY. VA. WILL BOOK NO. 2(1837-1849)

Page 113. WILL OF JACOB PERSINGER 1840/1841

In the name of God, Amen. I, Jacob Persinger. Sr., of the County of Alleghany and the State of Virginia, being in good health, sound mind and disposing memory, do hereby make this my last Will and Testament in the manner and form following: Towit: First: I give and bequeath to my beloved son John Persinger ,the whole of my Estate, both real and personal. Except as herein named: Second; I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter Mary Carpenter, deceased, (That is) To her daughters now living two hundred and fifty dollars to be divided in equal portions between them in current money of Virginia. Thirdly: I give and bequeath to my beloved son Andrew Persinger, two-hundred dollars. Fourthly: I give and bequeath to my beloved son Joseph Persinger and Alexander Persinger each fifty dollars, the one fifty to be paid by Joseph Persinger to Alexander Persinger, out of a Bond I hold on Joseph Persinger. the balance to himself. Fifthly: I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter, Elizabeth Fudge, two-hundred and fifty dollars in current money of Virginia. Sixthly: I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter Martha Rose one dollar. Seventhly: I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter Susanna Reed, (That is) to her daughter, Polly, fifty dollars, and if she is not living, to the next eldest daughter. Eighthly: I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter Nancy Callaghan fifty dollars. Ninthly: I give and bequeath to my beloved. Sally Wright fifty-dollars. Tenthly. I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter, Jane Persinger three hundred and fifty dollars in Virginia current money. also one horse beast to be valued between sixty and seventy dollars, also six or seven head of cattle, and the same number of sheep and all her bedding and furniture and clothing which she now owns; also her spinning wheel, bureau, pot, oven, set of knives, forks and plates. Eleventhly: I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter Granville Clarkson, three-hundred and fifty dollars in Virginia money. Twelfth. I also bequeath my servant. Daniel, (commonly called Blue) to be set free at the age of thirty-one, also his new suit of clothes and ten dollars in money. He was born the fourth day of November in the year of our Lord eighteen-hundred and twenty. Thirteenth: I also bequeath my servant, Catharine, to be set free at the same time as Daniel. I do hereby Ordain, Constitute, and Appoint my beloved son, John Persinger and my grandson, Samuel Carpenter Jr. my Ececutors of this my last Will and Testament then: to pay unto said Legatees above named, the several sums bequeathed and given to them in this my last Will and Testament within the period of three years after my decease. In witness whereof I have, hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this third day of July 1840. Signed, sealed, and delivered Jacob Persinger, Senr. (Seal) and acknowledged in the presence of:

Samuel Carpenter. Jr.  
Isaac Leighton  
Lee Persinger  
Andrew Fudge

ALLEGHANY COUNTY COURT MAY TERM 1841  
Page 114

An instrument of writing purporting to be the last Will and Testament of Jacob Persinger, deceased, was this day produced in Court for Probate, and was proven by the oath of Lee Pesinger and Andrew Fudge two of the subscribing witnesses thereto, and the same is ordered to be recorded.

Teste:  
Andrew Fudge. Clk.

**Chapter VI**  
**A Centennial History of Alleghany County Virginia**

Section from Oren F. Morton's book:

A Centennial History of Alleghany County Virginia  
By Oren F. Morton, B. Lit.  
J. K. Ruebush Company, 1923  
Dayton, Virginia

[Need to include all of page 134, and page 41 where it states where Jacob served under Captain Matthew Arbuckle.]

[page 134]

Three Persingers, Christian, Philip, and Jacob, went to Greenbrier from Rockingham about 1751, and a few years later were driven out by the Indians. They seem to have been brothers. In 1760, Jacob was the executor of Philip, and as Christian was not living in 1768, it is a fair inference that the two lost their lives in the Indian war. Barbara was a daughter of Christian, and Catharine was a marriageable daughter of Jacob in 1762. The second wife of Jacob was Catharine, the widow of Jacob Pence, her first husband dying about 1750. Jacob seems to have returned from Rockingham in 1771. In that year he sold to Thomas [page 135] Kincaid the land in Greenbrier that Christian Persinger had settled on, and made a home on Jackson's River below Island Ford bridge. He died before 1774. Abraham and Philip were sons, and in all probability, Christopher and Henry were other sons. Christopher, who settled on blue Spring Run, had eleven children. Some of them were Moses, George, Jacob (wife Margaret), John (married Elizabeth Kimberlin, 1778), Elizabeth (married George Karnes, 1793), Mary (married George Fought, 1789), Catharine (married John Wright, 1785), Rebecca (married John Dudding). Of two other daughters, one married a King, and one a McColvin.

Moses, who married Lottie Rayhill and died about 1820, was the only son to remain in Alleghany. He lived on the paternal homestead. His children were Allen, who married a Peters and went to Illinois; Harvey, who married an Alford and went to Texas; Lee, born 1810, married first a Hook and then a Helmintoller, and lived on the Jacob Persinger farm; Maria (married Jabez Johnson); Sophronia (married William Sollender); Charlotte (married George Stull).

Henry, whose wife was Grizzy (Griselda) lived high up on blue Spring Run and died in 1824. His children were John, Andrew, Jacob, Sampson, Elizabeth, Ruth, Peggy, and Mary. The last three married in the order of their mention, a Humphries, a Patterson, and a Bennett. Jacob appears to be the only son to remain in this county. His wife was Elizabeth, and his children

were Henry, Charlotte, William, James, Alexander, John, Andrew, and Jeremiah. The first three married, respectively, Annie Fridley, Henry Myers, and Mary Wolfe. Alexander went to Indiana. The remaining brothers went to Greenbrier and Nicholas. Jacob, in 1798, patented 924 acres on the county line just north of Nuckoll's Knob, and on a portion of this his Grandson John—a son of Henry, Jr. now lives.

Another Jacob Persinger was known as Jacob, Jr., to distinguish him from the father of Christopher and Henry. He was not related by blood to the other Persingers, and concerning him there is an interesting story. During the raid of 1756 a boy six years of age was carried off from Jackson's river. At one of the Shawnee towns he was adopted by a squaw who had two sons of similar age. Boards were tied to their backs to [page 136] make them walk erect, and every morning, regardless of the weather, the three boys had to take a plunge bath, after which they ran about nude until their skins were dry. The Indians were kind to this white captive, and punished him only when he presumed contrary to Indian usage to assist the squaws in their work. After he grew up, the Shawnees did not ask him to join their war parties against the white people.

After eight years the boy given up in the general delivery at the close of the war with Pontiac [By 1763, the British had control of much of northeastern North America. Most of the Indians were displeased by their treatment from the British. The main concern of the Indians was the continued settlement of people along the western frontier, which in 1763, included Ohio. Pontiac began organizing many Indian tribes together to rebel against the British. Pontiac's message of united Indian resistance was accepted among many groups, including the Delawares, Hurons, Illinois, Kickapoos, Miamis, Potawatomies, Senecas, Shawnees, Ottawas, and Chippewas. After a final council in 1763, warfare began. Pontiac's goal was to drive the British back to the eastern side of the Appalachian Mountains. The Indians had success waging war on frontier settlements that were not well protected. The British had many small forts on the frontier that were easily overrun by the Indians. Many British soldiers were killed in the attacks. The Indians attacked Fort Detroit and Fort Pitt but were unsuccessful in capturing the forts. The Indians were counting on French support against the British in order to take these two forts. The French support never came. As winter was getting close, many of the Indians who were fighting were also concerned about their families. Many went home to take care of their families and crops. Without controlling Fort Pitt or Detroit, the Indians had no real chance of driving the British out of the western frontier. Smaller battles continued for several years. In 1766, Pontiac signed a peace treaty at Oswego, New York. As one of the conditions of the treaty, Pontiac was considered not guilty of any wrong and was allowed to return home to his family who were living on the Maumee River.]. No one claiming him, he went back to his foster-mother, who was greatly pleased. At a council called to consider the case, the warriors argued that since the youth voluntarily returned, their obligation had ceased. But as the chief ruled that the treaty must be strictly observed, three braves returned

him to Jackson's River. He escaped from them and again made his way to the Shawnee village. This time the squaw concealed her adopted son, but at length he was seen by the chief, who said he must go to the white people. The youth now concluded that the Indians had forsaken him, and though he came back to the white settlements reluctantly, he made no further attempt to rejoin the people of the forest, for whom he continued to hold a friendly feeling. It was probably in the battle of Point Pleasant that he was recognized by one of his Indian foster brothers. There was an immediate truce between the two men and a cordial exchange of greetings.

On his third return to Jackson's River, which was probably a year or more after the first, he was claimed by a Persinger woman, who had lost a boy. Mrs. Persinger was but four feet six inches tall, while the youth stood six feet four inches. Her own son had a scar on the foot resulting from the bite of a rattlesnake. Although the returned captive could exhibit no such mark, she took him to her home, where he lived a while, although he was not placed on the same footing as her own children. He now became known as Jacob Persinger, jr., yet he never believed that he was one of her children. He thought the name of his parents was Godfrey. The Persinger home did not look like the home he recollected, nor were its surroundings the same.

Who was this Persinger woman? It is not easy to see how she could be the second wife of Jacob Persinger, Sr., because she never lived on the frontier until she accompanied him on his [page 137] return about 1770. The narrative speaks of her as though she were a widow, although Jacob Persinger lived till about 1774. If she were the widow of Christian Persinger and had continued to live on Jackson's River, there are no difficulties in the way.

For a while, the Indianized youth attended a "Dutch" school and had trouble in learning the language. Here is another snag in the story. It suggests that Mrs. Persinger's home was either in Greenbrier or Rockbridge. The early settlers of Alleghany were almost wholly non-German. Be this as it may, the youth was suspicious of the stern discipline then in vogue, and with an eye to possible trouble, he always took his rifle, tomahawk, and hunting knife, whenever he went to the schoolhouse. He afterward attended an English school, but only for three months.

At length the young man purchased a survey on Potts Creek, nine miles above Covington, and there he lived till his death in 1841, when he was above ninety years of age. He always took more kindly to hunting and fishing than to farm work, and thought nothing of sleeping outdoors under a tree. But his hunting was profitable. He became a slaveholder and one of the most substantial residents of the county.

In the Dunmore War [In 1774, Lord Dunmore was the British governor of Virginia. After the Peace of Paris of 1763, the British had undisputed claim to the area west of the Appalachian Mountains. The people of Virginia did not like the British presence in their state. Also, the British did not want the

Virginians to settle on any land west of the Appalachians, but the Virginians did not agree. Many white people were continuing to settle on lands west of the Appalachian Mountains and the Indians were harassing them.

Lord Dunmore went to Pittsburgh in the spring of 1774 hoping to make peace with the Indians. Soon, it became clear that peace would not happen. He began recruiting men and soon had a force of about 1,000 soldiers. After a couple of weeks of drill, Dunmore led the troops to the mouth of the Little Kanawha River. While camped at the Little Kanawha River, Dunmore was to meet with his officers who already had about 1,000 men camped about six miles away from Dunmore. The Battle of Point Pleasant prevented them from meeting. The Shawnee leader, Cornstalk, had a loosely organized group of approximately 500 Indians waiting to attack Dunmore's officers. In the early morning hours, the Indians crossed the Ohio River and attacked. The Battle of Point Pleasant lasted into the afternoon and was very intense. However, by the end of the day, the Indians were retreating to the north bank of the Ohio River in defeat. After the Battle of Point Pleasant, Dunmore marched his men north to the Shawnee villages. At this point, he was able to negotiate for peace. As a result of Dunmore's War, the Indians agreed to give up all of their white prisoners, restore all captured horses and other property, and not to hunt south of the Ohio River. Also, they were to allow boats on the Ohio River and not harass them. This opened up present day West Virginia and Kentucky for settlement.] Persinger served as a scout, and he campaigned eighteen months in the Revolution. He then married Mary Kimberlin. When the bride found he had only a little, rough cabin, and that the only bed was two bearskins spread on the floor, she insisted that they live in a more civilized manner. The husband readily complied. He put up a better cabin and at length built as good a farmhouse as there was in the valley. Jacob Persinger outlived his wife twenty years. Their children were John, Mary, Andrew, Joseph, Alexander, Elizabeth, Martha, Susannah, Nancy, Sarah, Jane, and Granvill. John, a colonel of militia, was unmarried. Joseph and Alexander went to Missouri, and the latter became a judge. Susannah, who married a Reed, and Jane, who married a Karnes, went to Tazewell. Mary married Samuel Carpenter, Sr., Andrew married Elizabeth Stickleman, Elizabeth (born 1780, died 1846) married Conrad Fudge. Martha married a Rose, Nancy married Charles Callaghan, Sarah married Peter Wright, and Granvill married Henry Clarkson. Soon after the murder [killed by the Negro Blue who was a slave of John's] of Colonel Persinger in 1842, the homestead was purchased by Lee Persinger, a son of Moses.

[page 138] Judge Alexander Persinger, born July 11, 1790, served in the war of 1812, became a pioneer settler of Illinois, and in 1818 crossed the Mississippi into what was then Missouri Territory. He was a justice of Montgomery and Boone counties, Missouri, and represented them in the state legislature after 1830.

**Chapter VII**  
**Roanoke Times Article 1999**

The following appeared in the Sunday edition of the Roanoke Times approximately March of 1999.

By MARTY HORNE  
THE ROANOKE TIMES

**W**hen Jacob Persinger Jr. married Mary Kimberline in 1778 in what is now Alleghany County, he made a strange request of his new bride. He wanted her to live in a wigwam. More than 220 years later, Persinger's descendants are thankful she refused.

To keep her happy, Persinger built a log house that still stands and is believed to be the oldest continuously inhabited home in Alleghany County and one of the oldest in this part of Virginia. Except for a six-year period, ownership of the house has remained in the family since the day it was built.

Persinger's house, which has been incorporated into a larger home, is both a Virginia and national historic landmark.

The history of the pioneer house that sits in a serene valley along Potts Creek eight miles south of Covington is as colorful as Virginia's itself. Generation after generation of Persingers who lived in the house have left their marks on the state and Alleghany County.

Today, the home is owned by Anne and Calvin Persinger Wright, a great-great-great-nephew of Jacob Persinger. They live nearby on property once owned by another Persinger descendant.

The Wrights bought the homeplace in 1976 after it had been sold out of the family six years earlier. Last fall, after renting the house numerous times to nonfamily members, the Wrights rented the home to Meade and Cathy Snyder.

Meade, 28, a Clifton Forge lawyer, is a Persinger descendant through his mother and is the sixth generation of Persingers to live in the house. The homeplace has undergone considerable change over the years, most of which took place around 1856 when it was owned by Lee Persinger, Jacob Persinger's nephew.

Originally, the two-story house consisted of four rooms, two on each level. A large room downstairs with a huge stone fireplace served as the parlor. A partition separated it from the other smaller room, which may have been a bedroom. The upstairs rooms were bedrooms.



Lee Persinger changed the look of the home dramatically. He built an addition to the east side of the house that doubled the home's size. He also added a full-length porch on both floors and a dining room to connect the parlor and the kitchen, which originally was detached from the home.

One of Lee Persinger's more beautiful touches was the decorative fireplace mantle and raised wood panels along the walls in the parlor.

Modern conveniences, such as central heating, water and electricity, were added in later years.

From the outside, there is little to suggest that the house is from the Colonial era. At some point, probably shortly after the house was built, wood siding was placed over the logs and painted.

The inside is a different matter, although it wasn't until a few years ago that much of the home's history was exposed, literally, when the floors and ceiling in the old part fell in. In the process of restoring the home, the Wrights listened to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and did not put back the plaster that had been added over the logs. The logs, still in excellent condition after 221 years, remain exposed in the parlor.

The walnut partition that separated the two original rooms was taken down. Each board was numbered, stripped of many coats of paint and reassembled with wooden pegs.

Some of the doors still have the original hinges, and the doorways are low, not because the Persingers were short people, but because it was necessary in order to keep the heat in the rooms in the winter. "They're real head-knockers," Anne Wright said. Stone fireplaces still provide heat in the cozy parlor and kitchen.

The Snyders have added plenty to the historic flavor with their collection of antique furniture, some handed down from family members, some bought by Cathy Snyder in her job as manager of Mustoe House Antiques near Hot Springs. Ironically, the building that houses the antique store is considered to be the oldest standing house in Bath County.

"I just go from one [historic] place to another," Cathy said. One piece a secretary with tall wooden doors paneled with glass is particularly treasured by the Snyders. For several generations in various parts of the country, the 1850-era secretary has been passed to the oldest son in the Snyder family at the time of his marriage. The piece has been moved about in everything from covered wagons to moving vans. Meade Snyder's father and law partner, Jim, had the piece for 35 years before passing it to Meade.

Cathy received other pieces a pie safe from Wythe County and a yellow-pine farm table from her father. She also has two antique beds, one that belonged to her great-grandmother.

The story of Jacob Persinger Jr.'s life is stranger than fiction. When he was a young boy he was carried off by the Shawnees during a raid in 1756 and was reared by the tribe in Ohio. At age 14, he was returned to his parents under the terms of a treaty with the Shawnees in 1763.

Young Persinger had trouble adapting to life with white people and twice ran off to rejoin the tribe. He finally was told by the chief not to return.

Not convinced that he was the boy taken in the raid, Persinger had difficulty living with his parents and soon moved out. In 1774 he served as a scout under Col. Andrew Lewis in a conflict between settlers and Indians and in 1775 joined the Virginia Militia at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War.

In 1777 he bought the land where the Persinger homeplace now stands and, no doubt influenced by his Indian upbringing, built a wigwam. His bride in 1778, as noted earlier, refused to join him in his lifestyle.

Persinger was listed in Botetourt County (which later became Alleghany County) records as serving in the Continental Army from 1782 to 1785. Over the succeeding years he developed a very profitable farm and fathered 12 children.

Subsequent Persingers to own the homeplace included: \*\*John Persinger, Jacob's son, who was killed in an argument with a slave in 1842. John was a colonel in the Virginia militia (1822) and twice a delegate in the Virginia legislature (1824-29; 1831-33).

\*\*Lee Persinger, John's first cousin, bought the house at John's death in 1842. Lee served as commissioner of revenue and later served on the county Board of Supervisors.

\*\*Allen Persinger, Lee's son, remained in the homeplace after his father's death in 1881. He served as justice of the peace and held a seat on the school board.

\*\*Oscar A. "Jack" Persinger, Allen's youngest son, lived in the homeplace with his mother and his own family after his father's death in 1940 until the late 1950s. (He sold the farm outside the family in 1970).

\*\*Calvin Persinger Wright bought the homeplace back in 1976 and in 1998 rented it to Meade Snyder, whose mother, Sara Lu Persinger Snyder, was Allen Persinger's granddaughter.

The Wrights are proud of the home's heritage and are eager to share its history with others. School children by the hundreds have come to see the house, and renters who have been long gone and who have their own memories of growing up there still call to ask about the house.

"It's a special place," Anne Wright said. "We've tried to preserve it, and

we hope to do a lot more. The goal is to keep it in the family so all can come and enjoy it."

## Chapter VIII

### Historical Sketches of the Alleghany Highlands

Here are two articles taken from the book titled "Historical Sketches of the Alleghany Highlands" which is a collection of articles written by the late Gay Arritt who wrote historic articles between 1951 and 1976 as a hobby and submitted them for publication to the Covington Virginian.

The first article originally published on July 4, 1976 taken from page 69. It is about Jacob Persinger and his family.

The second article was originally published on August 10, 1964 and is taken from page 180. It is about the first legal hanging in Alleghany county of "Blue" who murdered his Master (Colonel John Persinger) who was the son of Jacob Persinger Jr.

#### **Persinger Family**

[page 69]

Jacob Persinger Sr. came to the U. S. May 29, 1735 at the age of 19 on the ship Mercury and settled in central Pennsylvania. The name is of Swiss origin and was spelled Perdschinger on the passenger list.

Jacob and family followed the old Indian road south from Lancaster, Pa., Cumberland, Md., Winchester and Shenandoah Valley of Virginia to the James River and turned west to the mountains about 1750. Jacob and his wife settled on land at the head of Roaring Run and built a grist mill on it known as Hooks Mill in the early 1700's. In 1774 James Montgomery Jr. was granted 37 acres on the head of Roaring Run including the mill.

It is believed that Persinger family consisted of Jacob Sr., his wife Rebecca, Phillip, Abraham, Catherine, Christopher, Henry and Jacob Jr. in 1756 or 1757 when a war party of Delawares or Shawnees came down Dunlap to forks at Callaghan, through Indian Draft, and crossed the Jackson River above Fort Young at Covington. The Indians then went over McGraws Gap, down Smith creek and attacked Solomon Carpenter's blockhouse on Low Moor bottom killing several persons. They proceeded up Karnes Creek through rich patch killing John Montgomery Sr. at his farm near the intersection of Roaring Run and Rich patch roads. They probably killed Abraham and Phillip Persinger on the spot and took Rebecca and Jacob Jr. as prisoners.

Cecil Persinger recalled his grandfather John saying that two Persinger boys were taken and that the other one was named Paul and that the two boys were adopted by an Indian squaw and one of them died but he did not know which one.

Morton, in his history of Alleghany County, says that two sons were taken with Mrs. Persinger. The war party proceeded along the north of Rich Patch Mountain, Nickolls Knob, Potts Mountain and through present Paint Bank to the west. A group followed a trail left by Rebecca by tearing off bits of clothing and leaving them along the way hanging on bushes.

In 1965 one point of the trail was definitely established at the head of Lick Run which is a branch of Blue Spring Run where a large spring flows from under a sloping rock.

Mrs. Lavina Persinger Humphries remembered vividly her father, John Persinger, son of Henry Jr., and Anne, showing her a tree at this location on which Rebecca had left a bit of clothing to assist the pursuers. The trail was lost at Paint Bank and Rebecca was never heard from again.

Jacob Sr. served with Dickinson's Rangers in 1757 and was possibly with them when Rebecca was captured. In 1762 Jacob Married Catherine pence, widow of Jacob Pence, and is believed to have moved to McMurry's Creek, a branch of the Cowpasture River north and east of Clifton Forge.

His Daughter, Catherine, was married in 1762 also.

Jacob bought 20 acres on McMurray's Creek in 1771 and sold it in 1775; 44 acres on Wilsons Creek in 1771 and sold it in 1775. He was appointed overseer from the county line by the Cowpasture to the Red hill in 1770. Jacob furnished horses for the Cherokee expedition in 1776.

In 1770, a committee reported it was impossible to establish a road from Jacob Persinger's to the forks at Dunlap Creek. Jacob must have crossed the mountain at McGraw's Gap because he had 115 acres surveyed at the mouth of Indian Draft, a branch of the James in 1767. Jacob and Catherine sold this land to William Mann in 1772.

Jacob died about 1789.

Jacob Persinger Jr., was probably born in 1752 or 1753 and was carried off by Indians in 1756 or 57 and lived with them at Chillicothe, Ohio, principal city of the Shawnees for about seven years. In 1763 as a result of the Treaty of Paris, Chief Cornstalk of the Shawnees was required to give up his prisoners in an exchange that took place near Iron Gate.

[page 70] Jacob Persinger Sr. claimed the 10-year-old boy and gave him the name Jacob Jr. Jacob Jr. did not like the ways of the white man and ran away to return to the Indians several times only to be returned upon orders of the chief.

Jacob Jr. doubted that he was the son of Jacob Sr. He reportedly adopted the birthday of a Godfrey boy in Pa. Who was captured by Indians under circumstances similar to his experience. Morton in his history of the county

said the lost Persinger had a snake-bite scar on his leg but that Jacob Jr. had no such scar. Carpenter's history of the Carpenters of Fort Carpenter quotes Alexander Persinger, son of Jacob Jr., as stating that his father did have such a scar, and that his father remembered being taken from a mill by the Indians.

The Persingers reared Jacob Jr. as their son; he fought in the Revolution in Captain Matthew Arbuckle's Virginia Company September 6, 1775 – November 1, 1776. Captain Arbuckle was a neighbor who lived near the mouth of the Cowpasture.

In 1777 he bought 110 acres of Potts Creek and in 1782 another 283 acres. In 1778 he married Mary Kimberlin who refused to live in a wigwam with bearskins for a floor and bed. Jacob built the original Persinger home which still stands on Potts Creek about one-half mile above the confluence on Potts Creek and Blue Spring Run. The house is in excellent condition, the logs having been covered with weatherboard and is owned by Jack Persinger of the sixth generation. (Now owned by Mr. And Mrs. Calvin Wright) Jacob was constable in Alleghany County from 1809 to 1815 and died in 1840. His will was recorded in Alleghany County records July 3, 1840. He is buried in the Persinger Cemetery on the home place on Potts Creek.

Colonel John Persinger, son of Jacob Jr., was killed by a slave. The story is that on June 28, 1842, the Colonel and a slave named Blue were cradling grain in the field in front of the Jacob Jr. home place and an argument ensued over the way Blue was using the cradle.

Both had been sampling the product of a still house on the farm. Blue swung the cradle high and cut the Colonel on the leg; the Colonel died from loss of blood two days later. Blue was tried on July 9 and sentenced to be hanged on August 12, 1842. Blue rode on his pine coffin to the place of execution which was in the Sunnymede area of Covington.

He was the first person legally executed in Alleghany County. Ironically the will of Jacob Jr. filed in Alleghany County, decreed that Blue was to be freed at the age of 31 which would be November 4, 1851.

The grave of Jacob Jr. in the Persinger Memorial Cemetery was suitably marked in a ceremony conducted by Ann Bailey Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in June about 1930.

### **First Hanging**

[page 180] Colonel John Persinger of Alleghany County was a member of the Virginia Legislature in 1828 when he wrote the following letter to Andrew Fudge, clerk of the court of Alleghany County, on December 28, 1828, from Richmond:

"I have been to one wedding since I came to this city and they were married in the Roman Catholic Church, which was a great curiosity to me. The priest was about one hour performing the ceremony.

"I have drawn your money and you can tell Oliver Callaghan that I have drawn this claim of \$21. But I cannot find anything of John Morehead in this City. Write to me when you receive this and let me know how you ...I think the Legislature will adjourn about the first of February. You can tell Father that I am well and that I have not sold my horse yet. Yours very respectfully, John Persinger."

Ten years after his last term, the man convicted of Persinger's murder was the first person to be legally hanged in Alleghany County. His name was Daniel Wright, commonly called Blue, and he had been a slave of Colonel Persinger. The trial proceedings are recorded in Court Order Book No. 4, in the Alleghany Country Clerk's office.

According to the court record, Colonel Persinger received a fatal gash from Daniel Wright, alias Blue, on June 28, 1842 and the trial was held July 9 in the old log courthouse which had been erected in 1823.

William H. Terrill was appointed by the court as counsel for the defendant who entered a pleas of not guilty.

Numerous witnesses were called by the Commonwealth's Attorney, Joseph Damron.

The first witness was Alexander Persinger and his testimony was corroborated by other witnesses, Jeremiah Persinger and David Morrison. Alexander Persinger testified that "We went into the harvest field to cradle wheat on June 28, 1842, and cut until 10 o'clock. The Deceased Colonel Persinger directed the prisoner to grip his grain, prisoner swore he would not, that he would not grip it for him nor ... The deceased requested the prisoner to give him the cradle, and prisoner remarked that if Deceased wanted the cradle , he might come and get it, and that he would not want another cradle.."

The witness further testified that "the Deceased then stepped some four or five steps in the grain before the prisoner. The prisoner kept cutting until he came close to where the Deceased stood, when he made a high cut, clipping the heads off the grain, throwing his cradle around the deceased, and would have cut him in the side, had not the Deceased caught the cradle, and borne it down, inflicting a tremendous wound on the back part of the leg at the knee, remarking at that time, 'Now I suppose you will keep out of my way'."

The witness continued that the prisoner swore he would cut the deceased in two if he did not mind and that he would think no more of cutting a man down that cutting grain. He also said he heard the prisoner threaten the deceased

some two weeks before that act was committed and that he was sober at the time the act was committed.

Jeremiah Persinger added to the testimony that he had heard the prisoner make various threats against Colonel Persinger, and that he was satisfied that the wound was inflicted intentionally. He continued that the prisoner was sober at the time though he had taken a drink or two that morning.

Lee Persinger, grandfather of R. L. Persinger of Covington, another witness, stated that when he got to the ground where the murder was committed, soon after the wound was inflicted, he found Colonel Persinger in a very feeble condition from the loss of blood, fainting every few minutes and heard Colonel Persinger say the prisoner did it purposely.

Doctor John Cooper, another witness, stated that he was called to see Colonel John Persinger on the day he received the wound, found him quite exhausted from the loss of blood issuing from the wound which the prisoner had inflicted on the back of said John Persinger's knee. The wound extended halfway around the leg and reached the bone.

Another witness was Dr. George H. Payne, who had called to see Colonel Persinger on the Thursday following, and found him in a horrible condition and testified he was entirely satisfied that the wound inflicted by the prisoner on the said Persinger caused [page 181] his death, which took place on the Saturday morning following.

The final witness was Matilda Wright, who testified to hearing the prisoner say a week before the murder was committed, that he would knock the deceased's darned old gray head off his shoulders some of these days and leave him laying and that the prisoner was insolent to the deceased and did as he pleased.

The court unanimously found the prisoner "guilty of the willful and premeditated murder of his Master Colonel John Persinger," and stated further, "therefore, it is considered by the Court that he be hanged by the neck until he be dead and that execution of this judgment be made and done upon him, the said Daniel Wright, alias Blue, by the Sheriff of Alleghany County on Friday, August 12, next, between the hours of 10 in the forenoon and 2 in the afternoon of the same day, at the usual place of execution."

Since the slave would have been the property of John Persinger or his representative if he had lived until 1851, the court estimated the value of the slave to be \$320 and ordered the amount certified to the Auditor of the Public Accounts for payment to the Persinger estate.

The court further ordered the administrator of John Persinger, deceased, to pay to William H. Terrill \$15 as the fee allowed him by the court assigned to defend Daniel Wright.



Lee Persinger came into ownership of the property of Colonel John Persinger and later it was occupied by Allen Persinger, father of R. L. Persinger.

A newspaper account of the 1896 in recalling the incident, and the hanging which followed said:

“After the wounding of his master, Wright took to the woods and made his way to the home of the late Abram Huddleston of Peter’s Mountain. Here he was arrested, taken to jail, indicted, tried, convicted and afterward ‘hanged by the neck til dead’.”

The newspaper said the story came from the memory of some of the older citizens of the county, as there were no newspapers in the county at the time of the event. Sampson Sawyers was the sheriff at the time but his deputy, J. C. Lory, was the executioner.

“The execution took place near the foot of the hill leading to Cedar Hill Cemetery about a half mile east of the courthouse. It is said that he was conveyed to the scaffold in a two-wheeled car, sitting on his coffin...and the execution took place in the presence of more than a thousand people.”

Persinger was the son of Jacob Persinger Jr. who had been taken away by the Indians and spent several years of his childhood with the Shawnee Indians near Point Pleasant on the Ohio River.

Under his will, Blue was to be given his freedom on November 4, 1851

## Chapter IIX Fudge House

Article written by David S. Crosier that appeared in the Virginian Review on Friday, December 7, 2001. It is reprinted here with the author's permission. It's included in this book because it was owned by Elizabeth Persinger (wife of Conrad Fudge Jr.), daughter of Jacob Persinger Jr., and is a historic house in the area.



### Historic Fudge House Open To The Public Saturday

#### Fudge House Tour

The Convington Junior Woman's Club will sponsor a tour of the newly renovated Fudge House Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Current owners Pat and Lynda Loving have recently completed an almost decade-long renovation project in the 203-year home. The Lovings purchased the Fudge House in 1991 from descendants of the Fudge family. (David Crosier Photo)

By David S. Crosier  
City Editor

The Fudge House in Covington is decked to the nines this holiday season.

Area residents will get an opportunity to tour the 15-room, 203-year-old Fudge House Saturday, highlighting a day-long slate of events scheduled throughout the city.

Fudge House owners Pat and Lynda Loving will open the doors of their home to holiday well-wishers from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The tour, which is being sponsored by the Covington Junior Woman's Club, will cap off almost a decade of renovations to the state and nationally-registered home.

### **A History Of Change**

The rich tapestry that is the history of the Fudge House began when the first section of the home was built in 1798, the focal point of a large farm which encompassed the present-day Parklin Heights and Riverview areas of Covington.

A two-story log home with two rooms on each floor, it had a center staircase and front and rear entrances.

Stone exterior and chimneys were located on the east and west ends of the house. And unattached one-room log kitchen was located on the north side of the house.

The first alteration to the home was rebuilding of the eastern chimney.

Today, the original log home's stone foundation is still visible in the cellar area of the house.

The home received its first major addition around 1826 when a two-story brick section was constructed at the west of the house, with a one-story, one-room brick L section added to the north of the house. The stair was relocated to approximately the position of the fireplace on what had been the westernmost wall.

In addition, a frame partition was added in the original log section, making a room and stair hall. The original rear door was framed over and a new one was cut in the stair hall.

The new brick section had brick exterior chimneys in the western wall of each room.

A second renovation began in 1897. It was largely through this renovations that the Fudge House was given its present appearance.

In the 1897 remodeling, the rear L section was enlarged slightly and a full two-story wing was added across the rear. A rear stair hall was added with an L-configured staircase. In the original log section. another frame partition

was added, creating a side hall off the southeast corner room with an arched opening into the front stair hall.

The overall appearance of the house was changed at this time when the roofline was raised by approximately 18 inches. The windows were also enlarged during the 1897 renovation.

A five-bay, one-story, wooden front porch was also added in 1897.

A third major overhaul began in 1910 when the log kitchen was replaced with a new frame structure. The floor of the new kitchen was slightly higher than the old one to meet that of the new stair hall and butler's pantry, which were built to join the kitchen to the main house.

In addition to the kitchen, a new two-story wing, with servant's quarters on the second floor was added.

Bathrooms were also built in the first and second floor rear halls. Above the porch, on the east side of the house, an enclosed sleeping porch was added.

During the 1910 renovation, all of the home's brick chimneys were rebuilt to a uniform two-story height.

Although it was once the focal point of the large farm, only one building -- a smokehouse -- remains.

Ruins of at least two structures are to the north of the house -- a slave cabin and what may be the remains of a third house built by Joseph Carpenter, the original settler of the property.

In 1746, Carpenter received a patent for 782 acres, which included the land on which the Fudge House stands.

John Mann purchased 230 acres in 1762 and this, plus additional acreage passed to his son, Moses Mann, in 1778.

Moses sold the 230-acre parcel to John Robinson in 1784.

In 1789, David and Comfort Tate became owners of the property.

In 1795, Conrad Fudge Jr. and Christian Fudge of Rockingham County bought the property. Conrad Fudge Jr. married **Elizabeth Persinger, daughter of Jacob Persinger Jr.** of the Potts Creek area of Alleghany County.

Christian Fudge sold his interest in the property and moved to Ohio. Conrad remained on the land as farmer and blacksmith.

He died in 1849 and left 14 children and a large estate.

All this land was willed to two of his sons, Andrew and Stephen.

Andrew bought Stephen's interest and continued farming the land and operated a distillery. He served as clerk of the county and commissioner of the revenue. He was appointed a justice in 1864.

He married Harriet Kyle Beale in 1830 and, in addition to his other pursuits, operated a store on Covington's Main Street.

Joseph Fudge inherited the property from Andrew in 1886 and in 1906, passed the property to his son, Joseph Fudge Jr.

By the time Joseph Fudge inherited the property in 1906, the farm had been diminished to 100 acres.

In the 1930's and 1940's, he began selling sections of the property for residential subdivisions. He died in 1964.

### **A New Era**

In October 1991, the Fudge House was purchased by its current owners, Pat and Lynda Lovington, from the heirs of Ann Virginia Lambert, widow of Fudge descendants Joseph Fudge Jr.

Beginning in January 1992, the Lovings embarked on their own renovation project -- a project which would eventually take almost a decade to complete.

"Well, there hadn't been any major changes to the house since its last remodeling in 1910," Pat said. "When we bought the house, we found it to be in terrible shape. There were only eight electrical wall outlets in the entire house, all of the plumbing was old lead and leaked, the floor trusses were gone. We had our work cut out for us."

The first phase, which lasted a little over three years, completely renovated the interior of the home, including the replacement of wiring, wall plastering and plumbing.

"I had some great help in getting the work done," Pat said. "Jerry Morgan was instrumental in doing the plasterwork and the rear archway. Pete Does and his men helped when they had the time. The only thing I contracted out was the plumbing work, and I had Phillip Huffman come in and do that."

This year, after taking a few breaks during their renovation endeavor, Pat and Lynda completed the remodeling of the Fudge House, along the way, preserving some of the original sections of the house, including logs from the 1798 home, which can be seen today in three places.

"We have finished what I call a complete renovation of the home," Pat said. "It's just maintenance from now on."

In February 1993, to commemorate its contribution to the history of the Alleghany Highlands, the Fudge House was named to the Virginia Register of Historic Places. In April of that year, it was named on the National Register of Historic Places.

It is also featured on this year's Covington Junior Women's Club Christmas ornament, which will be on sale during tomorrow's tour.

For more information on the tour, call 962-2178.

As for the Lovings, they're enjoying the holidays and looking forward to tomorrow's tour. Are they relieved their decade-long renovation project is now behind them?

"Oh yeah," Pat said. "Trust me."

## Chapter IX Barshingers In America

Section taken with permission from the book "Barshingers In America". Which was compiled by Stephen H. Smith and can be contacted at the following address. The price of his book is \$40.

Stephen H. Smith  
709 Witmer Road  
York, Pennsylvania 17402

**W**e feel that Stephen Smith has provided adequate information to show that the Jacob Persinger, who came on the ship Mercury in 1735, settled in Pennsylvania and did not come to Virginia. His research has been very good and is well documented. He gives a wealth of information that can be of help to us in trying to find who the ancestors are of the Jacob Persinger who came to Virginia; such as:

1. The Persinger name has many different spellings and the original spelling in Europe was probably Bertschinger.
2. In his book on page 23 he lists four other Bertschingers (or various spellings) that came to Pennsylvania about the same time as Jacob and one of these possibly might be the ancestor of the Jacob Persinger of Va.

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Early in my research, the following four immigrants were considered as the immigrant Barshinger ancestor in addition to Jacob—however I have still not been able to locate any evidence that these immigrants are ancestors of any of the later generations of Barshingers in America.

Andreas BERSINGER (and sometimes spelled PERSINGER) was born October 1691<sup>31</sup>, and died August 1774<sup>32</sup>. Records have Andreas (Andrew) residing in Lancaster County, PA as early as 1719<sup>33</sup>--his will also indicates his wife was named Mary and that he resided in Lampeter Township, but there is no mention of any children. After her husband's death, Mary PERSINGER married John SHIRLY in Lancaster, PA on 24 December

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<sup>31</sup> Records of First Reformed Congregation in Lancaster, PA have Andreas BERSINGER being buried August 19, 1774 and his age was 83 years less 2 months—this means he was born October, 1691.

<sup>32</sup> Collections of The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, Volume 24, Abstracts of Lancaster County, Penna. Wills 1721-1820, Philadelphia, PA, 1896, p. 57 & 808.

<sup>33</sup> Rupp, Israel Daniel, A Collection of Upwards of 30,000 Names of German, Swiss, Dutch, French, and other Immigrants in Pennsylvania from 1727 to 1776, p. 438 (Swiss & German settlers in Lancaster Co. from 1709 to 1730).

1781<sup>34</sup>. Andreas was the brother of Heinrich BERSCHINGER<sup>35</sup>, who is documented in the next paragraph.

Heinrich BERSCHINGER (and sometimes spelled PERSINGER and PERSINGAR) was born about 1700, and died during 1763<sup>36</sup>. Henry resided in Lancaster County, PA as early as 1737—since his daughter Maria Magdalena BERSCHINGER was baptised on 13 February 1737<sup>37</sup> in the Trinity Lutheran Church of Lancaster, PA. Henry PERSINGER was warranted

100 acres of land in Hempfield Township, Lancaster County, PA on the 1st of March 1749<sup>38</sup>. Since Henry and Andreas were brothers, they likely journeyed to America together before 1719, and hence do not show up in any of the ship lists or oath of allegiance lists which began during 1727.

Casper BERSINGER (and sometimes spelled PERSINGER) was born about 1700, and died some time after 29 May 1750<sup>39</sup>—when his will was written. The Will also indicated Casper's wife was named Audelheid, and that he left a bequest to the Reformed Calvin Church in the borough of Lancaster. Several Lancaster County deeds show Casper living in the borough of Lancaster in the late 1740's and early 1750's<sup>40</sup> It is unclear when Casper arrived in America.

Andreas BESINGER<sup>41</sup> (and sometimes BERSINGER or BESENAR) was born during 1709 in

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Helmstadt, Germany. On 26 February 1733, Andreas married Maria Barbara Ritzhaupt (daughter of Adam Ritzhaupt) at the Lutheran Church in

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<sup>34</sup> Records of First Reformed Congregation in Lancaster, PA.

<sup>35</sup> Collections of The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, Volume 24, Abstracts of Lancaster County, Penna. Wills 1721-1820, Philadelphia, PA, 1896, p. 805. (Henry Persinger's will lists his brother as Andrew Persinger).

<sup>36</sup> Collections of The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, Volume 24, Abstracts of Lancaster County, Penna. Wills 1721-1820, Philadelphia, PA, 1896, p. 805.

<sup>37</sup> Rev. John Casper Stoeber, Trinity Lutheran Church Records, Lancaster, PA.

<sup>38</sup> Lancaster County land warrant #220 assigned to warrantee Henry Persinger on March 1, 1749.

<sup>39</sup> Collections of The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, Volume 24, Abstracts of Lancaster County, Penna. Wills 1721-1820, Philadelphia, PA, 1896, p. 800.

<sup>40</sup> R. Thomas Mayhill, Lancaster County Pennsylvania Deed Abstracts, 1729 through 1770, The Bookmark, Knightstown, IN, p. 6, 7, & 33.

<sup>41</sup> Annette K. Burgert, Eighteenth Century Emigrants from German Speaking Lands to North America.



Hoffenheim, Germany. Later in the year (on 28 August 1733), at age of 24—Andreas arrived in Philadelphia on the ship Hope—Daniel Reid, Master, from Rotterdam<sup>42</sup>. Information in publications (especially concerning land records) for this Andreas (born in 1709) and the formerly mentioned Andreas (born in 1691) are frequently interchanged or combined in previous research—I believe that my sources indicate that these were definitely two different men with nearly the same name, and that Andreas (born in 1691) was the actual resident of Lampeter Township in Lancaster County. Therefore it is unclear where this Andreas (who arrived in Philadelphia during 1733) eventually settled in America—although it is still possible that he settled in Berks, Lancaster, or York Counties in Pennsylvania, due to the scarcity of complete records in the mid-1700's.

My initial thoughts were that either of the two Andreas BERSINGERS could be the immigrant BARSHINGER ancestor due to a passage that I saw in the 1907 History of York County Pennsylvania under the biographical sketch of Dr. Martin L. Barshinger<sup>43</sup>: “The first of the family to come to America was Andreas Bersinger, a native of Switzerland, who emigrated some time between 1727 and 1735.” I later discovered that a paid Barshinger researcher—Vivian F. Taylor<sup>44</sup>—after much searching for solid evidence, was also forced to reach the conclusion that Andreas BERSINGER was quite likely the immigrant ancestor—based primarily on this passage.

#### **ELIZABETH BECHTLER Bible**

The conclusion that Andreas BERSINGER was the immigrant ancestor was fine until I started to find some information (by luck) that alternatively indicated that Jacob BARSHINGER could also be an immigrant Barshinger ancestor. I found this information while I was searching for the parents of the Anna Maria DIEHL (who married a third generation Barshinger), I came across the following passage in the Diehi Families of York and Adams Co. PA<sup>45</sup>: “Anna Maria (Diehl) BARSINGER b. 20 August 1783 Shrewsbury Twp. d. ca 1818 Windsor Twp. m. **Henry BARSINGER b. 26 October 1779 d. 26 April 1849 son of Andrew & Anna Margaret (X) BARSINGER and grandson of Jacob BARSINGER immigrant on “Mercury” 29 May 1735.**”

A few months after discovering the Jacob Barshinger lineage from the Diehi Source—quite by chance—I discovered what appeared to be the bible

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<sup>42</sup> Strassburger R. B. and Hinke, W. J., Pennsylvania German Pioneers, Volume I, p. 116, 120, 121.

<sup>43</sup> George R. Prowell, History of York County, Pennsylvania. J. H. Beers & Co., Chicago, (1907), Volume II, p. 210.

<sup>44</sup> Vivian F. Taylor, The Barshinger Family of York County, PA—Ancestry of Samuel Luther Barshinger, 1901-1976 (Compiled December, 1986 under the sponsorship of Pearl H. Barshinger). Copy in custody of Bucks County Genealogical Society, Doylestown, PA, p. 3.

<sup>45</sup> Harry A. Diehi, The Diehi-Deal-Dill-Dale Families of America, Volume I (Diehi Families of York and Adams Co., PA), Wilmington, DE (1989), p. 70.

records of Jacob's mother-in-law. One of my grandmother's ancestral lines is Bechtel, so I was looking through the Bechtel family file at the Lancaster County Historical Society to possibly find additional clues on my

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Bechtel lineage—**however as I glanced over a typed copy of an early bible record in the file, I noticed the entry “Jacob Pershinger was borne 4th mo. 29th 1716<sup>46</sup>” and thought WOW! The birthday matched the Jacob (Bertschinger, Perdschenger, Pertschinger) birth year per his age of 19 in the 29 May 1735 ship list records.**

The following two pages are an exact reproduction of the German Bible records of Elizabeth Bechtler—as I found them in the Bechtel family file of the Lancaster County Historical Society. Notice that these records appear to be twice copied from the actual bible—whose whereabouts is unknown. The first copy was “Written by Louis Miller from discoloured writing in German Bible of Elizabeth Bechtler”—likely in 1852, when the bible was probably about 130 years old. The typed record of the 1852 Louis Miller papers was done 14 October 1931 by Gertie Miller—it is unknown if it was later retyped to make it available “for Pennsylvania Historical Society”. Except for some very minor deviations, all information that I had previously uncovered on Barshingers (Pershingers) from the 1700s matched information found in this bible record. The bible record was also consistent with the DIEHL information on the lineage back to Jacob BARSINGER as the immigrant ancestor.

**I contacted the author<sup>47</sup> (Harry A. Diehi) about the source of this passage from the book on Diehi Genealogy, but he indicated that it would be difficult to locate in his records even if it was noted—however he was confident that it came from a primary source other than this bible record.**

As in most genealogical research, many times information is discovered that points to conflicting conclusions on an ancestor—in this case the passage in the County History pointed to Andreas BERSINGER as the immigrant BARSHINGER, while the BECHTLER Bible Record and DIEHL Research pointed to Jacob BARSHINGER as the immigrant BARSHINGER. Data on the lineages of future generations pointed to a single immigrant from which all current generations of Barshingers descended. Researchers have to make a judgement on which evidence is more accurate—I had my thoughts, but decided to also get an independent opinion on these issues and other conflicting pieces of evidence on Barshingers from a full time genealogist.

During the spring of 1998, I consulted with a noted local genealogist—John W. Heisey. After describing both sides of the Barshinger immigrant evidence,

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<sup>46</sup> Bechtel Family File, “German Bible Records of Elizabeth Bechtler”, Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster, PA.

<sup>47</sup> Telephone conversation with Harry A. Diehl of Wilmington, DE in response to research information that was mailed to him.

John immediately pulled out one of his books and turned to the chapter "COUNTY HISTORIES — Use With Caution"<sup>48</sup> Quoting a few lines from this chapter: "County histories can indeed be helpful, but beware, they can also be misleading. If you take what they report at face value without any further checking, you may run into difficulties. Your entire line of research may be sent veering far from the true course. I may sound cynical, but I am not. I am only commenting on what I have often found in such histories. The picture one gets from reading the biographical sketches is somewhat distorted as some of the data is based on tradition and hearsay, not proven facts. This is especially true of the European homes and early times of the immigrant ancestors. When one has finished reading such sketches, one has to fill in the

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A church only about one mile from Jacob's home is the Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church (originally known as the Old Warwick Lutheran Church) in Brickerville, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. A sketch on the origin of the old cemetery next to this church notes<sup>68</sup>: "This cemetery has probably been used by the people of the neighborhood for the burial of their dead from the time that the church was established which was in the year 1730, and from a private record of Leonard Miller, we note that a church building was erected in 1733, which stood about 200 yards southwest of the present church building . . . The graves are in rows and most of the early ones are marked with undressed and unlettered sandstones." Could Jacob, Magdalena, and daughter Eva Barshinger be buried in this cemetery? The compiler of this book walked this cemetery, looking for headstones that could belong to these (or any other) Barshingers—concentrating on names and also on birth & death dates, when the headstone names were no longer readable. No current evidence could be found of these Barshingers being buried at this cemetery—although it is still possible that they are buried at one of many sandstone headstones whose lettering has long since been erased by the weather and the elements. No documentation has yet been found as to when Jacob Barshinger died.

### **JACOB BARSHINGER'S ANCESTORS IN SWITZERLAND**

Through the documentation presented earlier in this chapter it is seen that Jacob BARSHINGER's surname in Switzerland was almost certainly spelled BERTSCHINGER<sup>69</sup>. In examining the following list of the various recorded

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<sup>48</sup> John W. Heisey, *Genealogy Helps, Hints, & Hope*, Masthof Press, Morgantown, PA (1980, 1981, 1982, 1995), p. 58.

<sup>68</sup> F. E. Schnerer, *The Old Cemetery at Brickerville—Sketch of Its Origin*, Brickerville, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

<sup>69</sup> The journey of the group of colonists (which included Jacob Bertschinger of Zummikon [Zumikon], Switzerland—per Weber's list) from Zurich to Basle down the Rhine is told at length in a pamphlet which Ludwig Weber, one of the emigrants, who returned to Zurich from Holland, wrote and published at Zurich in 1735 as a warning to later venturesome spirits. The title page of this

spellings of Jacob's surname, one has to remember that records that contain an ancestor's name were not created by that ancestor but by others—this was especially true since many early settlers only had rudimentary reading and writing skills. In most cases these civil records were recorded by English clerks who were not accustomed to the sound of the German language—thus the Swiss-German surname was recorded phonetically as it sounded in English. The problems with variant spelling of family names was not limited to English clerks—even those who spoke & wrote German (ministers and the like) recorded the German language names in various ways<sup>70</sup>.

Recorded Name	Year	Document
Jacob Bertschinger	1734	Ludwig Weber's pamphlet published in Zurich, 1735
Jacob Bertschinger	1735	Captain's List upon arrival in Philadelphia
Jacob Perdschenger	1735	Oath of Allegiance List upon arrival in Philadelphia
Jacob Pertschinger	1735	Oath of Abjuration List upon arrival in Philadelphia
Jacob Bertschinger PAS1a284051)	1735	Colonial Census, Philadelphia (ID#
[page 40]		
Recorded Name	Year	Document
Jacob Perdschinger PAS1a2391038)	1735	Colonial Census, Philadelphia (ID#
Jacob Pershinger married)	1736	Elizabeth Bechtler's Bible (when Jacob was married)
Jacob Barshinger	1738	Warrant for 100 Acres of Land in Lancaster Co., PA
Jacob Berchinger survey <sup>71</sup>	1739	Listed as neighbor on Lancaster Co. land survey

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pamphlet reads: Der Hinckende Bott von Carolina oder Ludwig Webers von Walliselen Beschreibung seiner Reise von Zurich gen Rotterdam, mit derjenigen Gesellschaft welch neulich aus dem Schweizerland nach Carolinam zu ziehen gedachte, Zurich, MDCCXXXV, pp. 32. Only known copy in the city library at Zurich.

<sup>70</sup> John T. Humphrey, Researching Eighteenth-Century Germans. National Genealogical Society 1999 Conference in the States.

<sup>71</sup> Survey Book Volume C, Number 121, Page 277. Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, PA. April 26, 1739 survey of the property of George

Jacob Perchinger	1742	Record of Baptism of a Son, Berks Co., PA
Jacob Berching survey <sup>72</sup>	1749+	Listed as neighbor on Lancaster Co. land
Jacob Burschinger Co., PA	1751	Record of Baptism of a Daughter, Lancaster
Jacob Berchinger Property <sup>73</sup>	1782	Land Survey of Lancaster Co., PA
Jacob Berchinger patent <sup>74</sup>	1784	Listed as neighbor on Lancaster Co. land
Jacob Barsinger grandfather of Henry	---	Diehi record <sup>75</sup> indicating Jacob is
Jacob Birchinger owner <sup>76</sup>	1824	Purchaser of Jacob's land, listing original

In the first 100 years of Barshingers in America (primarily in the Counties of Lancaster and York in the State of Pennsylvania), variant spellings of Barshinger are recorded in various records—thereafter, and to this day, there is little variation from the current Barshinger spelling. Could it be that Jacob's children and their children decided to standardize on the surname spelling

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Book lists Jacob Berchinger as a neighbor at that time (Book's surveyed property is adjacent to Jacob's 1738 warranted property).

<sup>72</sup> Survey Book Volume C, Number 84, Page 57. Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, PA. Undated survey of the property of Adam Householter lists Jacob Berching as a neighbor at that time (Householter's surveyed property is adjacent to Jacob's 1738 warranted property, and Householter's survey refers to Householter's 5 Sept 1749 Warrant—so the survey would have had to taken place during 1749 or later).

<sup>73</sup> Survey Book Volume C, Number 23, Page 193. Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, PA. October 17, 1782 survey of the property of Jacob Berchinger—this is Jacob's 1738 warranted property.

<sup>74</sup> Patent Book Volume P, Number 2, Page 367. Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, PA. March

19, 1784 patent for the property of Daniel Benezet et. al. lists Jacob Berchinger as a neighbor at that time (Patented property is adjacent to Jacob's 1738 warranted property).

<sup>75</sup> Harry A. Diehi, The Diehi -Deal-Dill-Dale Families of America, Volume I (Diehi Families of York and Adams Co., PA), Wilmington, DE (1989), p. 70.

<sup>76</sup> Patent Book Volume H, Number 21, Page 333. Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, PA. February 4, 1824 patent for the property of Robert Coleman lists Jacob Birchinger as the original owner of the 1738 warranted property.

that was on what was likely one of Jacob's most precious documents—his document of land ownership in America?

Jacob's family surname while he lived in Switzerland is almost certainly Bertschinger. There is a book called *Zürcher Familiennamen* by Viktor Schobinger, Alfred Egli, and Hans Kläui, that was published in Zurich, Switzerland during 1994<sup>77</sup>. This book includes information on the formation and distribution of surnames of long established families from the Canton of Zurich, Switzerland—it includes about 1,200 surnames of families which were citizens already before 1800. Although this book does not provide any conclusive proof on the identity of Jacob Bertschinger's ancestors, it does provide clues on the locations within the Canton of Zurich where the Bertschinger surname originated. In 1329, there is a mention of a Bertschi in Swabendingen. A Johans Bertschiner is in Schwamendingen during 1387, and in 1417, a

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Bertschinger died in Swamendingen (given name not recorded). During 1554, Rudolf Bertschinger married Anna Korrodi in Kusnacht. In Zumikon during 1599, Jakob Bertschinger of Gossikon married Adeiheid Hirzel of Itschnach. During 1674 in Pfaffikon, Hans Heinrich Bertschinger of Sulzberg married Elisabeth Fridori of Sulzberg. And during 1700 in Wetzikon, Hans Rudolf Bertschinger of Kempton married Barbara Bodmer of Rietwis. It has been suggested that the Jakob Bertschinger, who married during 1599 in Zumikon, is an ancestor of the immigrant Jacob Bertschinger [Barshinger]—it is agreed that he is in the correct village location, and that the name would suggest he is an ancestor, but without additional evidence, this connection will only be treated as a possibility. Another possibility is that Rudolf Bertschinger (who was born in 1532, and married during 1554 in Kusnacht—not too far from Zumikon), is the father of Jakob Bertschinger (who was born in 1566, and married in 1599).

A search of Jacob's Swiss family surname (BERTSCHINGER) in other family histories and internet sources revealed possible names of his parents and ancestors in Switzerland, however the information gathered so far also contained some inconsistencies. The compiler of this book is currently attempting to confirm the validity of this information by having some original records in Zumikon & Zurich, Switzerland examined—however this task was still not progressing with meaningful results at the time of publication of this book. Therefore a compilation of the information (eventhough the compiler of this book is uncertain that it can be completely validated) from the various sources is presented here:

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<sup>77</sup> Marion Ridpath provided the Bertschinger surname information from *Zürcher Familiennamen* by Viktor Schobinger, Alfred Egli, and Hans maui, (published in 1994)—from a 24 Dec 2000 search of this book for the Bertschinger surname.

Jacob Bertschinger's parents<sup>78</sup> are Hans Heinrich and Anna Bertschinger<sup>79</sup>. Hans Heinrich Bertschinger was born<sup>80</sup> 6 May 1683 in Zumikon, Switzerland—he was married to Anna Groff in Zumikon, Switzerland. The location is listed as Waltikon instead of Zumikon in some research—Waltikon is actually an adjoining village of Zumikon [the town centers of Waltikon and Zumikon are located less than one half mile apart]. In some research<sup>81</sup> Hans Heinrich Bertschinger is listed as (born in 1684, died in 1738); likewise his wife Anna Graff [Groff] is listed as (born in 1693, died in 1733). Another record<sup>82</sup> has a daughter (Barbeli Bertschinger, born 21 July 1717 in Zumikon, Switzerland) born to the same parents.

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Hans Heinrich Bertschinger's parents<sup>83</sup> are Hans Heinrich and Barbara Bertschinger. The elder Hans Heinrich Bertschinger was born 24 October 1658 in Zumikon, Switzerland—he was married to Barbara Kellerman in Zumikon, Switzerland. The elder Hans Heinrich Bertschinger's father was Rudolph Bertschinger. Two sources of this information on Jacob Bertschinger's parents and ancestors in Zumikon, Switzerland are discussed in the following paragraphs.

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<sup>78</sup> Zumikon baptism records: StaZ Elli 150.1—Jacob Bertschinger was baptized 7-28-1715, father Heinrich Bertschinger of Waltikon and mother is Anna Graff. This record forms the basis for the conclusion reached in the majority of Persinger Family research, although Melva Persinger notes that “There is so much conflicting information, it almost sounds like there was more than one Jacob born in 1715 [or 1716] in Zumikon”—so it is unclear if this Jacob Bertschinger is confused with another Jacob Bertschinger who had different parents.

<sup>79</sup> LDS Records have Jakob Bertschinger, born 28 Jul 1715 in Zumikon, Zurich, Switzerland to Hans Heinrich Bertschinger and Anna Graf. The main author for this source document (Film 442384) is Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Alberta Temple—the title is: Endowments for the dead, 1923-1970; heir indexes, 1923-1949; baptisms for the dead, 1944-1970.

<sup>80</sup> Family Tree CD Volume 7, (1996), Broderbund Software, Inc. Information from Tree 2549 (Tree Name: Lincoln, Johnson, Hackett of IA, CT 1444-1996) which was submitted 4 Sept 1996.

<sup>81</sup> Research done by Paul Douglas Persinger, his wife Bonnie, and Jerry Briggs in the late '60s and early '70s—per e-mail of Melva Persinger (Paul was Melva husband's brother).

<sup>82</sup> LDS Records have Barbeli Bertschinger, born 21 Jul 1717 in Zumikon, Zurich, Switzerland to Hans Heinrich Bertschinger and Anna Graf. The main author for this source document (Film 455787) is Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Alberta Temple—the title is: Sealing sheets for the dead, couples and children (includes some living spouses and children, 1944-1970; heir index, 1944-1957).

<sup>83</sup> Family Tree CD Volume 7, (1996), Broderbund Software, Inc. Information from Tree 2549 (Tree Name: Lincoln, Johnson, Hackett of IA, CT 1444-1996) which was submitted 4 Sept 1996.

A 1996 World Family Tree CD<sup>84</sup> contains the listing for Heinrich \* Bertschinger (born about 1690)—his wife was Anna \* (Graff) Bertschinger (born about 1690). Their only child is listed as Jacob \* Perdschinger, Sr. (born 15 July 1715). Notes for Jacob include “born in Switzerland; to U.S. in 1735 to Philadelp.” and “died before Oct. 23, 1789 in Boterourt Co., VA; Possibly died in 1774?”. This family tree information indicates that Jacob married his first wife Rebecca in 1743 and he married his second wife Catherine Pence in 1762. Six children are listed for Jacob: Christopher Persinger, Phillip Persinger, Abraham Persinger, Catherine Persinger, John Henry Persinger, and Jacob Godfrey Persinger, Jr. (A FamilySearch Pedigree Resource File<sup>85</sup> that was submitted in 1999 duplicates much of this information—it was likely copied from this World Family Tree CD.)

Another 1996 World Family Tree CD<sup>86</sup> contains a listing for Jacob Bertschinger (born 28 July 1715)—this family tree indicates his wife was named Magdelene, and their only child was listed as Christopher Persinger. This family tree contained the following information on Jacob Bertschinger’s ancestors: Jacob Bertschinger’s parents are Hans Heinrick and Anna Bertschinger. Hans Heinrick Bertschinger was born 6 May 1683—he was married to Anna Groff in Zumikon, Germany. Hans Heinrick Bertschinger’s parents are Hans Heinrick and Barbara Bertschinger. The elder Hans Heinrick Bertschinger was born 24 October 1658—he was married to Barbara Kellerman in Zumikon, Germany. The elder Hans Heinrick Bertschinger’s father was Rudolph Bertschinger.

**In these two family trees it appears that the same person Jacob (Perdschinger) Bertschinger is being documented, yet his birth dates are different (15 July 1715 versus 28 July 1715) and the names of his wives are different (Rebecca, whom he married in 1743 versus Magdelene). Note that the Elizabeth Bechtler Bible even records a third birth date for Jacob (29 April 1716—although it is possible that it was recorded incorrectly by Elizabeth, since it was written in the Bible a great amount of time after his birth, or it could even be possible that Magdalena (or even Jacob?) did not remember the correct date when it was told to Elizabeth Bechtler)—this date was recorded by Elizabeth after Jacob married her daughter Magdalena in 1736. The compiler of this book obtained the names of the submitters of these two World Family Trees—Allan Griffith for the first Tree on WFT Volume 4, and Louis A. Johnson for the second Tree on WFT Volume 7. All attempts at contacting Louis Johnson have not been successful.**

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<sup>84</sup> World Family Tree CD Volume 4, (1996), Broderbund Software, Inc. Information from Tree 1459 (Tree Name: Griffith, Persinger, Gibbs of IN, IL 1602- 1996) which was submitted 24 Jan 1996.

<sup>85</sup> FamilySearch Pedigree Resource File at <http://www.familysearch.org> (this file was submitted by George Kearnes of Lincoln NE during 1999).

<sup>86</sup> Family Tree CD Volume 7, (1996), Broderbund Software, Inc. Information from Tree 2549 (Tree Name: Lincoln, Johnson, Hackett of IA, CT 1444-1996) which was submitted 4 Sept 1996.



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There has been significant correspondence with Allan Griffith, who sheds some light on the sources of this previous Bertschinger family information. Allan did express some anxiety that the information on the World Family Tree CDs can not be updated once a volume is pressed as a CD—since current researchers continue to quote these records, eventhough Allan now has some doubts about the validity of this information on the Bertschingers. Thus it must be with any information gathered on such CDs, LDS Databases, the Internet, etc.—the information must be treated as CLUES for locating the original sources. Only after a careful examination of as many sources as possible, should one start to treat the information as FACT.

Allan Griffith provides<sup>87</sup> the following notes on his early search for the sources behind the assumptions that the immigrant Jacob Bertschinger in his latter life moves from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania to Botetourt County, Virginia and become the head of a family who spell their name PERSINGER: "In October, 1992 I made contact with George E. Persinger from Seymour, IN by mailing letters to all Persingers in the Washington & Jackson County areas on my Phone Disc. Someone claims that Robert L. Persinger of Covington, VA has a copy of the passenger list. On other papers Ms. Knoepfel shows the name as Perdachinger, Bertschinger & Bertchinger! The typed copy I have shows last name as Perdschinger. George has extensively researched the Persingers and is mailing me copies of most of his findings. He says that Jacob Perdachinger came to the U.S. in 1735 (age 19) from his home in Zurich, Switzerland on the boat Mercury but changed his name to Persinger (the former name was listed on the passenger sheet). The Mercury arrived at Philadelphia May 29, 1735. Jacob fought in the French & Indian Wars and later moved to Virginia where the next few generations of Persingers remained. He says he visited a cabin which he claims was the Persinger families' farm just South of Covington, VA. I received the copies George made me in October 92. No mention of whether Jacob was unaccompanied on his trip from Europe by parents or sibs?, however many details of which I will not type here are listed about descendants and history of Indian wars, etc. in PA & OH. Much of this material is typed by Betty Pierce Knoepfel who descended from Christopher's other son Moses whose descendants later lived in Schuyler County, IL. Betty's address in 1971 is listed as: 415 Stratford Dr., Emporia, KS 66801. There is also an extensive miniaturized chart of several generations titled 'The Persingers of Alleghany County, VA. 1750-1965' by Howard V. Humphries, dated March 1966, and states is from the notes of R.R. & L.L. Humphries & R.L. Persinger. It lists Jacob Sr. down to Christopher then down to John Persinger but not any of John's children. I will make an effort to talk to both Ms. Knoepfel & Mr. Humphries, & hopefully Robert Persinger of VA. & possibly Ms. Sharon Elliot. Mr. Humphries had died long before I wrote a letter in 1993, his wife wrote back stating so and she had nothing to say about the genealogy questions. I

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<sup>87</sup> Correspondence with Allan Griffith on 12 Feb 2001.

have been unable to reach Ms. Elliott or Mrs. Knoepfel. An anonymous note describing the Persingers says that Jacob's ancestors came from the 'Palatine area of Europe'. Then later I obtained a library loan copy of the book 'Thirty Thousand Names of Immigrants (to Philadelphia)' by I. Daniel Rupp. Near the bottom of Page 98, Left Column is listed Jacob Perdschinger. This is the ship record of Jacobs atlantic transit to the U.S. The book shows this under the heading '38) May 29, 1735. Palatines and Switzers imported in the ship Mercury, William Mason, Master from Rotterdam, last from Cowes. — 64 men, 51 women, 37 boys & 34 girls — in all 186 — Editor'. Note that women, and childrens names are not listed, as is true for all the other records in this book, so apparently the heads of the ship did not bother to record that information. I believe that the date is the date of arrival to Philadelphia. Wm. Mason probably is the ship captain. The ship

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apparently originated in Rotterdam, Netherlands and its last stop in Europe was at Cowes, on the Southern edge of England. Special note is made that an asterisk was beside Jacobs name, as with close to half of the names in the book — denoting that a clerk wrote the name in and was not taken from the autograph of the person himself. This is important as Prof. Rupp states in that the U.S. clerks rarely spelled European names correctly, thus we really don't know what Jacob actually called himself, so I suppose Bertschinger is just as likely." [Ludwig Weber's 1735 pamphlet describing the journey of a group of colonists spells Jacob's name as Bertschinger—and since Weber was a native of Switzerland this is most likely the proper spelling.]

The compiler of this book suspects that some of the Bertschinger to Perdschinger to Persinger progression of surnames in the two previously noted World Family Trees originated from the Persinger Family histories that Allan Griffith was attempting to verify in the preceding paragraph. Also, after researching additional 1700s Persinger references, one must conclude that there is considerable documentation for Jacob Persinger (who served in Dickerson's Rangers & later lived in Botetourt County of Virginia) and his descendants. **However it appears that the conclusion may have been premature that this Jacob Persinger and the Jacob Bertschinger from the ship Mercury are one in the same person—it is conceivable that the possibility of this connection was made on speculation by an early Persinger family researcher, and now has become fact to some Persinger researchers even though no supporting documentation to reach this conclusion has yet been uncovered.**

Conversely there are pieces of evidence that are being brought up in recent Persinger e-mail correspondence<sup>88</sup> that indicate that Jacob Persinger of

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<sup>88</sup> Allan Griffith's collection of Persinger c-mails—some containing spirited discussions on whether or not Jacob Persinger of Virginia and the Jacob Bertschinger from the ship Mercury are one in the same person. Allan Griffith traces his ancestry back to Jacob Persinger of Virginia, descending from Luke Persinger (1783-1871).

Virginia and the Jacob Bertschinger from the ship Mercury are probably not one in the same person. Marsha Martin pointed out that: "In 1727, England started requiring that all aliens [in America] take a oath of allegiance to the King. To make sure this affected everyone, under provincial law, a unaturalized alien could not be granted land. If a man sold land in his name then you could assume he had either sworn allegiance to the King, became naturalized, or was a natural born subject of the King. **Jacob [Bertschinger] Perdchinger/Persinger when he arrived in 1735 swore an oath of allegiance to the King. This was the easiest way for the English to reach new people coming into the country, as they got off the boat. In 1765, Jacob Persinger became naturalized in Augusta County, VA. This Jacob [Persinger] must have been in the country before 1727.**" [Therefore Jacob Persinger can not be the same person as Jacob Bertschinger who arrived in America during 1735—being naturalized at that time. Jacob Persinger could be the son of other Persinger/Bersinger families who were in America before 1727—possibly some of the families discussed in the Barshinger Ancestors? section in this Chapter.] Marsha Martin also points out that: "[Of] the signatures and marks of the people arriving on the Ship Mercury on 29 May 1735. Jacob Perdschenger's mark is very distinctive. It looks like the letter 'B' sideways. It is a line drawn across the page with two bumps on the top of the line. The mark of Jacob Persinger on early land transactions in VA is a circle with an "X" in the center of the circle." Marvin Persinger wrote "I have records dating back 30 years concerning Jacob Bertschinger who was the son of Heinrick Bertschinger. As far as I am concerned unless someone has more definite info than I have, I am not ready to accept this as our Jacob Persinger." In the Persinger c-mails, other Persingers ask "Do you have any

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proof other than the oft told story?"<sup>89</sup>—sometimes evidence is provided for Jacob Persinger's life in Virginia, but never on his connection to the Jacob Bertschinger who arrived in America during 1735 on the ship Mercury—other than statements that years ago this connection was made and validated, however the people that made this connection have since died (without indicating if the connection was only a possibility, or if they had evidence that was never shared with anyone else).

**On the contrary, the documentation presented in this book is tangible and supportive of the conclusions reached about Jacob Bertschinger's Barshinger identity—the highlights include: ' Jacob's Pennsylvania land records in Lancaster County—the deed records the spelling of his name as BARSHINGER, and the deed places him in the proper local—a place where they are consistent with other records: Baptism records for two of Jacob's children—with one of them indicating the name of his wife as Magdalena (the other baptism record only listed the name of**

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<sup>89</sup> This quote is from Melva Persinger, although other similarly worded questions are found throughout the Persinger e-mails.

the father); the Bible Records of Jacob's mother-in-law, which ties the information together—especially the age match for her son-in-law with the Jacob on the ship Mercury, and the Bible's age matches to other records of Jacob's grandchildren; and the Diehi records indicating Jacob Barsinger, immigrant on the ship Mercury, is the grandfather of Henry Barshinger, who died 26 April 1849. With this evidence, the conclusion must be reached that Jacob from whom the Barshingers in America descend, is the Jacob Bertschinger from the ship Mercury.

#### **BERTSCHINGER'S IN ZUMIKON, SWITZERLAND**

The Swiss hometown of the immigrant ancestor Jacob Bertschinger—who arrived in America during 1735 on the ship Mercury—was Zumikon<sup>90</sup>. The town of Zumikon is located in the Canton [state] of Zurich, in Switzerland. The primary language used in this canton is German. Zumikon is located 5 miles southeast of the city of Zurich. The city of Zurich is the capital of the Canton of Zurich, and is the largest town in Switzerland—it currently has a population (including suburbs) of approximately one million people. Zurich is located at the north end of Lake Zurich (Zürichsee), and on both sides of the Limmat River—a river which flows from Lake Zurich into the Aare River in northern Switzerland. The Aare River eventually flows into the Rhine River at the Swiss-German border. The Canton of Zurich includes a fertile agricultural region of Switzerland. Outside of the main towns, the region is made up of meadows, orchards, and forests—it was undoubtedly agricultural when this region was conquered by the Romans in 58 B.C. With the fall of the Roman Empire, the control of this region passed to the Germanic tribes of Alemanni after the fifth century. By 1218, Zurich governed itself and joined the Swiss Confederation in 1351.

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<sup>90</sup> The journey of the group of colonists (which included Jacob Bertschinger of Zummikon [Zumikon], Switzerland—per Weber's list) from Zurich to Basle down the Rhine is told at length in a pamphlet which Ludwig Weber, one of the emigrants, who returned to Zurich from Holland, wrote and published at Zurich in 1735 as a warning to later venturesome spirits. The title page of this pamphlet reads: *Der Hinckende Bott von Carolina oder Ludwig Webers von Walliselen Beschreibung seiner Reise von Zurich gen Rotterdam, mit derjenigen Gesellschaft welch neulich aus dem Schweizerland nach Carolinam zu ziehen gedachte*, Zurich, MDCCXXXV, pp. 32. Only known copy in the city library at Zurich.

## Appendix A

### Unanswered questions

The following is a list of questions on the birth and parentage of Jacob Persinger Jr. that can't be undisputedly answered because of conflicting information.

#### The various birth dates indicated are:

1. From his son Joseph Persinger in "The Life of Jacob Persinger":
  - a. (chpt.I p.1) 1753 in Virginia. (record says 1735 which was no doubt a transposition)
  - b. (chpt.I p.2) about 1751 ("about 12" at time of treaty of 1763)
2. From his son Alexander Persinger in an speech given to Boone County Court, Missouri:
  - a. (chpt.II p. 24) about 1750 ("about six years old" at time Indians took him captive in 1756)
  - b. (chpt.II p. 25) about 1753 ("about ten" at time of adoption in 1763)
3. From Oma Glassburn Robinson in "David Glassburn – Virginia Pioneer":
  - A. (chpt.III p. 33) 19 January 1749 (from a birth record that Jacob Persinger (Godfrey) obtained in Southern Pennsylvania.)
4. From Oren F. Morton in " A Centennial History of Alleghany County of Virginia": ( He also had information in "Annals of Bath County, Virginia" which we have not researched)
  - a. (chpt.VI p. 49) 1750 ("during the raid of 1756 a boy of six" ..)
5. From Gay Aritt, who wrote historical articles in the Covington Virginian:
  - a. (chpt.VIII p. 60) 1752-1753 ("was probably born in 1752-1753")
  - b. (chpt.VIII p. 60) 1753 (... "claimed the 10 year old boy" ...in 1763)
6. From Elsie Josephine Fudge in "Biography of Jacob Persinger": (note: according to Oma Glassburn Robinson, she also wrote "A Short Story of Jacob Persinger" which we do not have)
  - a. "Corporal Jacob Persinger was born in Southern Penn. On Jan 19, 1749".
  - b. "Jacob Persinger when he was supposed to have been about four years old was stolen by Shawnee Indians" (capture was in 1756 making his birth about 1752)

#### The various information on his parentage:

1. From his son Joseph Persinger in "The Life of Jacob Persinger":
  - a. (chpt.I p.3) The German woman named Persinger who adopted him was four and a half feet tall; he became six feet four inches tall. She said her son had a scar on his ankle

from a snake bite, but he had no scar. He spoke only Shawnee and had a hard time learning German at the "Dutch" school; he eventually learned English. (NOTE: Joseph does not mention the Godfrey story; only the snake bite story)

2. From his son Judge Alexander Persinger in a speech given to Boone County Court, Missouri:
  - a. (chpt. II p. 25) "...a man by the name of Persinger ...adopted him".
  - b. (NOTE: Alexander does not mention the Godfrey story; nor the snake bite story; but Carpenter's history of the Carpenters of Fort Carpenter quotes him as stating that his father did have such a scar, and that his father remembered being taken from a mill by the Indians)
3. From Oma Glassburn Robinson in "David Glassburn - Virginia Pioneer": (chpt. III pp.32-33)
  - a. "The last time, he was taken by a widow Persinger who had lost her son, and was given the name of her lost son, Jacob Persinger. He spoke only Shawnee, and she spoke only German."
  - b. "But he never ceased to search for his parents. He learned of a family by that name of Godfrey in Southern Pennsylvania who had had a child stolen by the Indians at about the time he was stolen, and of about the same age. The Godfrey boy was playing about this father's mill when he was taken, and Jacob remembered that he was at his father's mill when the Indians took him. Then there had been a scar of a snake bite on the Godfrey's boy's heel, and Jacob Persinger had a similar scar. When Jacob Persinger visited the place, he found that the family had been gone for many years. But the facts that he learned concerning them connected up with what he, himself could remember, and convinced him that he was the lost Godfrey son. He got a certificate of the recorded birth date of the Godfrey boy, Jan. 19, 1749, and adopted it as the date of his birth, but he retained the name of Jacob Persinger."
  - c. She gives evidence that the first wife of Jacob Persinger Sr. (who came from Switzerland) was Mary (Gay Arritt says her name was Rebecca), and that she and two sons were captured by the Indians and never heard of again.
  - d. "Jacob Persinger married a second time, ca. 1760 to Catharine Pence, the widow of Jacob Pence who died ca. 1750. It is of interest to note here that his daughter, Catharine married Jacob Pence, the son for the widow Pence.
4. From Oren F. Morton in "A Centennial History of Alleghany County, Virginia":
  - a. (chpt. VI pp. 50-51) "On his third return to Jackson's River, which was probably a year or more after the first, he was

claimed by a Persinger woman who had lost a boy. Mrs. Persinger was but four feet six inches tall, while the youth stood six feet four inches. Her own son had a scar on the foot resulting from the bite of a rattlesnake. Although the returned captive could exhibit no such mark, she took him to her home, where he lived a while, although he was not placed on the same footing as her own children. He now became known as Jacob Persinger, jr., yet he never believed that he was son of her children. He thought the name of his parents was Godfrey. The Persinger home did not look like the home he recollected, nor were it surroundings the same."

- b. "Who was this Persinger woman? It is not easy to see how she could be the second wife of Jacob Persinger, Sr., because she never lived on the frontier until she accompanied him on his return about 1770. The narrative speaks of her as though she were a widow, although Jacob Persinger lived till about 1774. If she were the widow of Christian Persinger and had continued to live on Jackson's River, there are no difficulties". (Gay Arritt states that Jacob Persinger, Sr. died about 1798. Also it is possible that widow Persinger is referred to as a widow because she was the widow of Jacob Pence, who later married Jacob Persinger, Sr.; if so she would be a step-mother and her size in relation to the adopted son would not matter)
5. From Gay Arritt in "Historical Sketches of the Alleghany Highlands":
    - a. (chpt. VIII pp 58-60) "It is believed that the Persinger family consisted of Jacob Sr, his wife Rebecca (Oma Robinson says her name was Mary), Phillip, Abraham, Catherine, Christopher, Henry and Jacob, jr. in 1756 or 1757 when a war party of Delawares or Shawnees came down...They probably killed Abraham and Phillip Persinger on the spot and took Rebecca and Jacob Jr. as prisoners." ..."Jacob Sr. died about 1798" ...."Mrs. Lavina Persinger Humphries remembered vividly her father, John Persinger, son of Henry, Jr., and Anne, showing her a tree at this location on which Rebecca had left a bit of clothing to assist the pursuers. The trail was lost at Paint Bank and Rebecca was never heard from again."... "Jacob Persinger, Sr. claimed the 10 year old boy and gave him the name of Jacob Jr. Jacob Jr. did not like the ways of the white man and ran away to return to the Indians several times only to be returned upon orders of the Chief. Jacob Jr. doubted that he was the son of Jacob Sr. He reportedly adopted the birthday of a Godfrey boy in Pa. who was captured by Indians under circumstances similar to his experience. Morton in his history of the county said the lost Persinger had a snake-bite scar on his leg but that Jacob Jr. had no such scar. Carpenter's history of the Carpenters of Fort Carpenter quotes Alexander

Persinger, son of Jacob, Jr., as stating that his father did have such a scar, and that his father remembered being taken from a mill by the Indians." (this is not mentioned in Judge Alexander's talk to the Boone County Court in Missouri)

1. One account states he was bitten on the ankle by a snake, and another account states he wasn't.
2. One account states that he was adopted by a widow, and another states he was adopted by Jacob Persinger Sr.
3. Glasburn states he was captured at the age of three, other accounts say different
4. Morton puts an extra generation in Jacobs ancestry of Henry Persinger. This disagrees with Glasburn's records. See footnote 6 on page 112 of the Glasburn book.
5. Joseph states that Jacob was 6' 4" and that his adopted mother was only 4' 6" meaning that she couldn't be his biological mother.
6. Was Mary Persinger (Jacob's Mother) German or Swiss?
7. Jacob Persinger Sr. death date has been stated as being 1774, but Oma Robinson says this is probably too early p 121.
8. Was Jacob Jr., a Captain in the Revolutionary war? Glassburn page 121.
9. Facts between the two Jacob Persinger Jr's (one the biological son of the Jacob Immigrant from Switzerland and the other the adoptive son who was captured by the Shawnee's) have been meshed together.
10. Richard A. Pence has a website where he states the following: "Gen. Pence also reported that Jacob Bentz and Valentine Bentz appear on a list of German settlers in Berks, Lebanon and Lancaster counties who were customers of a Mr. Potts, a merchant of Pottsgrove. The records of these transactions were kept by Christian Lauer and Conrad Weiser, members of the Reformed Church at Tulpehoeken. 'Based on the foregoing,' wrote Gen. Pence, 'it appears that our ancestor Jacob and brother Valentine lived in the vicinity of Tulpehoeken during their stay in Pennsylvania.' Another customer of Mr. Potts was a **Jacob Persinger**, probably the same man who became a widower and later married Jacob Pence's widow, Catherine." <http://www.pipeline.com/~richardpence/shenback.htm>

Here is a quote from Jon Persinger who states why these store records could be helpful: "Jacob has been our proverbial brick wall since the turn of last century. The store records mentioned on Richard Pence's website from Pottsgrove are the best bet for placing Jacob at a time and place in Pennsylvania that I have ever heard about. Not only can we pin him to a time and place but we can put him in the geographical location of the Pence family who bought 3000 acres in Virginia and promoted a migration to the exact area of Virginia the our Jacob settled in. The Pence Family would have



needed to hire teamsters, hunters and guides to safely complete their journey. They would have also solicited other families in the area to accompany them on their journey. (safety in numbers was a rule of the day)

The store records would also indicate a lot about Jacob's status and occupation not to mention that there might be other Persingers listed on these records not mentioned in the Pence story. Jacob was mentioned only because of his probable marriage to Catherine Pence."

## **Apdendix B**

### **Genealogy Charts**

**H**ere is a pedigree chart of how I descend through Jacob Persinger.  
Jacob Persinger Jr. - 1749

Andrew Persinger - 1782

Rebecca C. Persinger - 1821

Thomas Benton Lemmon - 1845

Mayma Ethelyn Lemmon - 1893

Grant Lemmon Misbach - 1929

Matthew A. Misbach - 1971

Here is the beginning of a descendant chart of Jacob Persinger Sr.

Jacob Persinger Jr.

Elizabeth

Andrew

John

Mary

Joseph

Alexander

Martha

Susanah

Nancy

Sarah

Jane

Granville