

The Families Of

*Nicholas Grüenenwald ~ Greenawalt
Franklin County Pennsylvania
1754 – 1831*

Nicolaus *Grünewald* (b. 1654) Family

Nicolaus *Grünewald* was born October 16th 1654 in Breitenbach, Michelstadt, Starkenburg Germany. He married Anna Margaretha Straub on June 30th 1685. Anna was born March 8th 1659 in Dusenbach, Michelstadt, Starkenburg Germany, who is our Nicholas's great grandfather.
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Their one son was Friedrich *Grünewald*, who was born January 16th 1691 in Raibach, Michelstadt, Starkenburg Germany. He died October 15th 1761. Friedrich married on July 30th 1711² to Anna Margaretha Hofferberth. Anna was born December 27th 1682 in Mümling-Grumbach Germany, and died May 2nd 1750. Their son was Johannes *Grünewald*, who is our Nicholas's grandfather.

Johannes *Grünewald* (1712 – 1766)

Johannes *Grünewald* was born April 19th 1712 in Raibach, Michelstadt, Starkenburg Germany. He died February 3rd 1766. Johannes married Eva Catherina (Katherina) Reeg (vonHoff) on January 8th 1737. Eva was born March 5th 1717 in Gumpersberg, Michelstadt, Starkenburg Germany, and she died March 25th 1770. Eva Catherina (Katherina) Reeg (vonHoff) family lineage is also reported.³

Johannes and Eva lived in Gumpersberg, Wurttemberg (now Hessen) Germany, where their children were born. The border of Wurttemberg stretched in the 18th century further north than now. All data on their children are from church records, and who are our Nicholas's brothers and sisters.⁴

- i. Johann Peter *Grünewald* was born March 20th 1738, and died March 23rd 1738
- ii. Elisabetha *Grünewald* was born May 14th 1739.
- iii. Johannes *Grünewald* was born October 30th 1740, and died March 4th 1809. He married May 17th 1768 to Elisabetha Catherina Arras.
- iv. Maria Elisabetha *Grünewald* was born December 15th 1742, and died May 30th 1792. She married Johann Ernst of Rodenhausen on July 14th 1761.
- v. Elisabetha Margaretha *Grünewald* was born November 19th 1744, and died August 15th 1745.
- vi. Johann Michael *Grünewald* was born July 9th 1746.
- vii. Maria Magdalena *Grünewald* was born November 27th 1749.
- viii. Johann Nicolaus *Grünewald* was born October 16th 1755, Gumpersberg, Michelstadt, Starkenburg Germany. He immigrated to Colonial America in 1771.
- ix. Johann Conrad *Grünewald* was born October 16th 1755, and died February 14th 1807.
- x. Johann Jacob was born July 7th 1759, and died July 28th 1759

The Greenawalt family were based around the Karlsruhe area of Germany, and branched out from there in all directions. The church records from Kirchbrombach were strewn throughout, and church records from Hassloch did not contain any records for a Nicholas Grünewald or similar for this time period. We speculate that Nicholas, upon his father's death in 1766, left from Woerth on the Main on a barge to Rotterdam. There's no information between 1766 or when Nicholas boarded the ship Tyger in 1771, where all males over 16 years were listed by name.

There is one recorded family story that came from the family of Guy Angle Greenawalt, who is Nicholas Greenawalt's great-great grandson. Guy recalls his cousin David Franklin Greenawalt⁵ talking about the origins of their Greenawalt family; "...the original Greenawalt came from Germany during the potato famine and settled in Maryland about 1740..."⁶

Another possibility came from David Greenawalt; upon Nicholas's father's death in 1766, Nicholas left his home in the Gumpersberg Woerth area of Germany, and went on a barge to Rotterdam, in the Netherlands. There's no information between 1766 or when Nicholas boarded the ship Tyger in 1771 for his voyage to Colonial Pennsylvania.

- The only recorded potato famine that would have occurred during German migration to Colonial America, occurred in southeastern Germany of Saxony 1771–1772. 18th century Saxony Germany is not considered part of the Palatinate region. In 1756, Saxony joined the coalition of Austria, France and Russia against Prussia. Prussia invaded Saxony in August 1756, precipitating the Seven Years War. The Prussians quickly defeated Saxony and incorporated the Saxon army into the Prussian army. At the end of the Seven Years War (1756-1763), Saxony once again became an independent state. Many German males of military recruiting age left Germany to avoid being pressed into military service.
- History indicates that the first Germans came south to Maryland from Pennsylvania in 1728. In 1732 Lord Baltimore offered 200 acres; tax free to any farmers willing to locate in western Maryland. By 1745 these German families settled the town of Frederick, and in 1762 Jonathan Hager established Hagerstown. It is also a fact that Nicholas's great grandson, Samuel C. Greenawalt (1827-1911), left Franklin County for the Fredrick area of Washington County Maryland, before migrating to Illinois. Was there a family connection?

There is evidence that the family members of Abraham Greenawalt (b.1700) moved into Maryland from their homes in Lancaster County Pennsylvania. There is no evidence Nicholas migrated into Maryland before or after he enlisted in 1776 Allen Town Pennsylvania. The Maryland connection in 1740 may be an obvious historical conclusion that David Greenawalt reached during his research and that he did not write about. But we will continue to look into this aspect of our Greenawalt family, and in using David's genealogical work as the basis for what we believe to be facts about our Greenawalt family.

A list we found of this family in the History of Lehigh County Pennsylvania,⁷ identified Nicholas Greenawalt who immigrated on September 19th 1771, and lives in Franklin County Pennsylvania. On page 452 of the Biographical Annals of Franklin County Pennsylvania, in a biographical sketch of Johann Heinrich Greenawalt, Nicholas, Hans, and Henry are identified as other Greenawalt men who emigrated to Franklin County Pennsylvania.⁸

Henry is Johann Heinrich Greenawalt (1723-1811), who was from York County Pennsylvania, and who may also be from the Abraham Greenawalt (b.1700) family line.

Hans Greenawalt immigrated to Colonial Pennsylvania September 1746.

Johann Nicholas Grünewald (1755 – 1831)

Our Colonial ancestor, Nicholas Greenawalt, was born Johann Nicolaus Grünewald on October 16th 1755 in Gumpersberg, Wurttemberg (now Hessen) Germany to Johannes Grünewald and Eva Catherina (Katherina) Reeg (vonHoff). All other Colonial records have Nicholas being born October 6th 1754. However, the parent's and children's dates are from church records.⁹

Nicholas was fifteen years old when he left his family in Gumpersberg, Michelstadt, Starkenburg Germany for Rotterdam and boarded the ship Tyger, piloted and mastered by Georg Johnston. We believe that Nicholas lied about his age, indicating he was sixteen and not fifteen, in order to obtain a passage on the ship. The ship stopped in Cowes¹⁰ to clear British Customs, before moving on to Colonial Philadelphia.¹¹

Nicholas just turned sixteen years old when he landed in Colonial Pennsylvania on November 19th 1771.¹² On the same day at Messrs, Willing & Morris's Store in Philadelphia, Nicholas took his Oath of Allegiance and Qualifications.¹³ According to records, the ship list contained 130 passengers, but only 118 names are found taking the Oaths and Qualifications Allegiance. There were 12 names that did not appear in the records for taking the oath.¹⁴ We are still attempting to obtain a clear record with his signature for taking the oath.

At barely 16 years old, Nicholas took his Oath of Allegiance and Qualifications on November 19th 1771,¹⁵ which was after the period when Colonial America experienced the highest number of emigrants; 1749-1755. Five years after arriving in Colonial Philadelphia, at twenty years old, Nicholas enlisted in Allen Town Northampton County in May 1776.¹⁶ We could not find him on any indentured servant lists,¹⁷ but this does not mean he was not formally, or informally, indentured to a Grünewald family member, or other person or organization, already established in Colonial Pennsylvania.

We have not located any formal record of Nicholas being indentured to someone who paid for his ship's passage. If he was not indentured, his \$48 to \$60 fare from Rotterdam to Colonial Philadelphia would have most likely been paid for by the Captain of the ship, who would have sold Nicholas's cost to a family member, church, or local businessman.

After landing at the ports of Philadelphia, Nicholas immediately traveled the Reading Road to the Berks and Northampton County region of Pennsylvania. He most likely settled in a German enclave located in the Allen Town region. Most of the Allen Town residents were descendants from southwestern Germany Palatinate and Switzerland. This group of German farmers and tradesman spoke the German dialect known today as Pennsylvania Dutch or the High German language.¹⁸

We believe Nicholas had a good German education, and that he could read and write his native language. He may have even been schooled in the English language before coming to Colonial Pennsylvania. We know that he learned to read and write English by the time he was 22 years old when he enlisted in 1776 Allen Town for the Revolutionary War. After Nicholas mustered out of the war in 1780, he reappeared in 1790 Franklin County Pennsylvania,¹⁹ along with two other Greenawalt families; Johann Heinrich Greenawalt and Hans Greenawalt.²⁰

The 1790 Southampton Township census record for Franklin County list Nicholas as sixteen years old and upward, and another male identified less than sixteen years old, and one female with no indicated age.

The other male under 16 would have been born 1774-1790. If the female is Mary, she would have been 12 years old.

At almost thirty eight years old, Nicholas married fifteen year old Mary Miller on September 22nd 1793 in Shippensburg Franklin County Pennsylvania. Mary was born January 18th 1778²¹ in Shippensburg Cumberland County Pennsylvania. Records of her family have not been located.

The next record on Nicholas was a 1796 tax return for Southampton Township Franklin County, which shows Nicholas having two acres of land. This is most likely the Greenawalt home on present day Mongul Hill Road, Mongul Franklin County.²²

The 1800 census for Southampton Township list Nicholas as forty five and over, one male ten to fifteen years old, one male under ten years old, and one female twenty six to forty four years old. This is perplexing. Nicholas married Mary in 1793, and she was born in 1778, so she is most likely the female. But who are the two other males? We cannot locate any 1810 records.

The 1820 record list Nicholas as 45 years and older; one male under 10 years old (Jacob born 1812); two males 10 thru 15 years old (Peter born 1808 and Unknown born 1805 to 1810); two females 16 thru 25 years old (Catherine born 1804 and Elizabeth born 1806); and one female 45 years old or older (Mary born 1778)

By 1830 only Nicholas and Mary, Catherine, Elizabeth, and Jacob are listed. These records suggest there are possibly two other male children prior to the children Nicholas identified on his 1826 Revolutionary War Pension application.

One candidate for the male born about 1800 is another Nicholas Greenawalt who is listed in the 1840 Washington Township Franklin County census record. This Nicholas cannot be located in any other record, before 1840, or after 1840. This Nicholas was born no earlier than 1800. However, if our Nicholas's 1818 and 1820 pension application identified "all" of his "living" children, then if Nicolas and Mary did have other children, they would have died prior to the pension application. This other Nicholas may be the 1st son born.²³

According to Nicholas's pension al of his children were born in Franklin County Pennsylvania. We are attempting to match the children's names with traditional German Baptism naming conventions.

- i. Catherine Greenawalt was born 1804. 1st daughter after the mother's mother – We know that Nicholas's mother was named Eva Catherine Reeg (vonHoff)and Mary Miller's mother could have also been named Catherine Miller. Catherine never married, and lived her entire life in Southampton Township Franklin County Pennsylvania. She was a seamstress, and her brother Jacob lived with her between 1850 and 1860.
- ii. Peter Greenawalt was born January 29th 1808 and died June 9th 1871. 1st son after the father's father – If the unknown males from 1790 and 1800 are Nicholas's sons, then Peter would be the 3rd born son. The 3rd born son would be named after the father, or the father's oldest brother. Nicholas's older brother was named Johann Peter Grünenwald, and I suspect the father's name is too.
- iii. Elizabeth was born 1806. 2nd daughter after the father's mother – We know that Nicholas's mother was named Eva Catherine Reeg (vonHoff)
- iv. Jacob Greenawalt was born 1812 and died 1879. Jacob had no children. 2nd son after the mother's father – Mary's father would be also named Jacob Miller. If the unknown males from 1790 and 1800 are Nicholas's sons, then Jacob would be the 4th born son, named after Nicholas's Great-Grandfather Nicholas, or after Nicholas himself. Here we know that Nicholas's youngest brother was Johann Jacob, who was born and died in 1759.

Except for a gap in 1810, where we could not locate Nicholas or Mary, they lived their entire life in and around the Shippensburg region; Southampton and Green Townships of Franklin County Pennsylvania. Nicholas died before his 77th birthday on September 28th 1831, while living in Southampton Township Franklin County Pennsylvania.

After Nicholas died, Mary Miller-Greenawalt lived with her son Peter and his family, where she would die at the age of 80 on November 18th 1858. Nicholas and Mary are both buried in the area of Green Village, Green Township Franklin County Pennsylvania. We have yet to verify this, but it the most likely place.

There are two direct connections that tie us to the ancestral line of Nicholas Greenawalt (1754-1831); Nicholas of Franklin County and his son Peter using Nicholas's Revolutionary War Pension record; and Peter Greenawalt (1808-1871) to Henry Greenawalt (1839-1923) using the Federal Census and Civil War Pension records.

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End Notes

¹ This information came to us through the efforts of David Greenawalt, great-great-great-great Grandson of Nicholas Greenawalt, who lives in Erlangen, Germany. His work comes from the original church records for the Nicholas's Grünenwald family.

² Friedrich Gruenewald and Anna Margaretha Hofferberth source listed the married date as 1771, but this must be a mistake when it was transcribed.

³ The following are the extended family members of Johann Nicolaus Gruenewald's mother, Eva Catherina Reeg's family.

- Nicholas's grandparents on his mother's side are the following: Johannes Reeg who was born March 27th 1689 in Stierbach Germany to Hanns and Anna Maria Reeg. Johannes Reeg died March 26th March 1766 in Gumpersberg Germany. Johannes married April 23rd 1711 to Maria Magdalena Niessenacker who was born May 8th 1690 in Gumpersberg to Peter Niessenacker and Anna Fornoff. Marie died March 17th 1764 in Gumpersberg Germany.
- Nicholas's Reeg's great grandparents were Hanns Reeg who was born April 13th 1662 in Kirchbrombach germany, and died Decemebr 11th 1711 in Stierbach Germany. Hanns married Anna Maria Reeg who was born November 20th 1664 in Kirchbrombach Germany, and died March 2nd 1745 in Stierbach Germany.
- Nicholas's Reeg's great-great grandparents were Christoph Reeg was born 1625 in Stierbach Germany. He married 1650 to Catherina who was born March 1629. Christoph died October 5th 1690 in Stierbach Germany, and Catherina died December 3rd 1689.
- Nicholas's Niessenacker's great grandparents were Peter Niessenacker who was born January 1645 in Switzerland. He married November 26th 1674 to Anna Fornoff who was born January 1648 in Hoellerbach Germany. Peter died September 21st 1719 in Gumpersberg Germany, and Anna died June 13th 1714 in Gumpersberg.
- Nicholas's Fornoff's great –great grandparents Hanns Fornoff Born Jan 1615 he married 1638 to Anna who was born April 1615. Hannes died January 1681 in Gumpersberg, and Anna died January 1650 in Hoellerbach.

⁴ An original copy of the church book was not possible, since they said the writing was too faded to copy. Transcribed from the original record from the Evangelical Church in Kirchbrombach, Brombachtal, Odenwald, Starkenburg, Hessen Germany, Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA.

⁵ David Franklin Greenawalt and his son David were the Greenawalt family historians since the early 20th century. In 1988 David completed a Genealogy report on the family, and provided it to all of his cousins, including my grandfather.

⁶ Notes written by Mary Jane Greenawalt-Dunbar, daughter of Guy Angle Greenawalt and Mary Virginia, for the 75th birthday of Guy on December 10th 1978. The bulk of the information came from numerous letters between Guy Greenawalt and relatives, and interviews conducted by Mary Jane Greenawalt-Dunbar with her father Guy Greenawalt.

⁷ Page 774, The Greenawalt Family, The History of Lehigh County Pennsylvania, and Genealogical and Biographical Record of it's Families, by Charles Rhodes Roberts, Rev John Baer Stoudt, Rev Thomas H. Krick, and William J. Dietrich, Vol II, Lehigh Valley Publishing Company LTD, Allentown Pennsylvania, 1914

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ An original copy of the church book was not possible, since they said the writing was too faded to copy. Transcribed from the original record from the Evangelical Church in Kirchbrombach, Brombachtal, Odenwald, Starkenburg, Hessen Germany, Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA.

¹⁰ Cowes is located on the Isle of Wight, a county and the largest island of England, located in the English Channel.

¹¹ Gregory Allen Greenawalt, Eugene Allen Greenawalt, and research collaborated by Sandra Emerick Genealogist for the Lancaster County PA. Historical Society, Lancaster Pennsylvania

¹² The ship's origin was Rotterdam in the Netherlands, which also stopped in Cowes before moving on to Colonial Philadelphia.

¹³ 32-VoL. XVII, page 496, Who Took the Oath of Allegiance, 1727-1775, Immigrants into Pennsylvania, List of Foreigners Imported in the Ship Tyger, George Johnston Captain, From Rotterdam, Last from Cowes, Qualified November 19th 1771

¹⁴ Charles F. Kerchner, Jr., P.E., Member: Lehigh County Historical Society, Berks County Genealogical Society, Sons of the American Revolution, Palatines to America, Pennsylvania German Society

¹⁵ 32-VoL. XVII, page 496, Who Took the Oath of Allegiance, 1727-1775, Immigrants into Pennsylvania, List of Foreigners Imported in the Ship Tyger, George Johnston Captain, From Rotterdam, Last from Cowes, Qualified November 19th 1771

¹⁶ Nicholas Greenawalt Revolutionary War Service Timeline, Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road York Springs PA.

¹⁷ Vol. 1, p.736: Pennsylvania German Pioneers, Strassburger & Hinke, published 1934, Record of Indentures Bound Out As Apprentices, Servants, Etc. and of German and Other Redemptioners in the Office of the Mayor of the City of Philadelphia from October 3, 1771 to October 5, 1773, Genealogical Publishing Company; pub. 1973.

¹⁸ They were primarily from the Baden-Wurttemberg region of Hassock or Bühl Germany. This Greenawalt family would have migrated from the Swiss border area to Lower Palatinate Germany during the 17th century.

¹⁹ Until 1784 Franklin County was part of Cumberland County Pennsylvania. Nicholas lived in Southampton and Shippensburg Township of Cumberland County. Part of Southampton Township was apportioned to Franklin County in 1784, while the other part remained in Cumberland County.

²⁰ Biographical annals of Franklin County, Pennsylvania : containing genealogical records of representative families, including many of the early settlers, and biographical sketches of prominent citizens.. Chicago: Genealogical Pub. Co. 1905.

²¹ Revolutionary War Pension Record for Nicholas Greenawalt, record W-2103, The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001

²² Franklin County Tax Records Southampton Township, Returns for 1796 Taxables, Kittingtinny Library, The Franklin County Historical Society - Kittingtinny 175 East King Street in Chambersburg Pennsylvania.

²³ 18th Century Pennsylvania German Naming Customs & Patterns, 18 Aug 1995, Charles F. Kerchner, Jr., Emmaus PA 18049