

Michael Bentz (1830-1895)

Michael Bentz was born March 8th 1830 to Jacob Lau Bentz and Elizabeth Slothour. Michael married Susanna Heiges, who was born in 1835. Michael died March 13th 1895, and Susanna in 1925. They were both laid to rest at the Barrens Church, 232 Kralltown Road, York County Dillsburg Pennsylvania.

Michael's will, dated May 3rd 1887, indicated he had four children. Tobias and Erwin Bentz were named as Administrators. His daughters were Cordelia who was intermarried with John Hartman, and Bertha who was intermarried to George Firestone, who bought Michael's farm for \$2000.00.¹ Some researchers have mixed up Michael's marriage and his children. Michael's will contradict the other researchers.²

Michael and Susanna Bentz had four children.

- i. Tobias Bentz was born December 5th 1853 to Michael Bentz and Susan Heiges in Warrington Township York County Pennsylvania. He had a confirmation on May 3rd 1884.

Tobias married Alice B. Sollenberger.³ Alice Barbara Sollenberger was born 1855 to Cyrus and Martha Sollenberger in Carroll Township York County Pennsylvania.⁴ Tobias and Alice lived in Monaghan Township York County Pennsylvania. Alice died June 2nd 1887 resulting from the birth of a William M. Bentz who also died June 2nd 1887.

- ii. Cordelia Bentz born about 1857, she married John Hartman and lived in Mechanicsburg.
- iii. Ervin Heiges Bentz was born 1858 to Michael Bentz and Susanna Heiges in Warrington Township York County Pennsylvania. Ervin married Louise Hershey on March 10th 1881. She was born March 28th 1858 to Edward Hershey and Sara Detter.
- iv. Bertha Albertis Bentz was born April 9th 1865, and married George M. Firestone of Mount Airy area of Monaghan Township on August 22nd 1882

Bibliography

1. Page 39, Descendents of John Sollenberger, Born 1771 – Died 1855, Six Generations, Compiled by D. L. Sollenberger, Shamokin Pa., 1921, as written by the families of John Sollenberger.
2. Michael W. Lau's volume "Bentz Families (Includes Pentz Families) of York County, Pennsylvania And Surrounding Areas", (October 1998) Bentz Families (Includes Pentz Families) of York County, Pennsylvania And Surrounding Areas", (October 1998), York County Heritage Trust, 250 East Market Street, York, PA 17403.
3. 1870 Michael Bentz Census: Warrington, York, Pennsylvania; Roll: M593_1470; Page: 398B; Image: 84; Family History Library Film: 55296, 1870 United States Federal Census, Provo, UT, USA; Original data: 1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.; Minnesota census schedules for 1870. NARA microfilm publication T132, 13 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.
4. 1880 Michael Bentz Census: Warrington, York, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1206; Family History Film: 1255206; Page: 257A; Enumeration District: 5; 1880 United States Federal Census, Provo, UT, USA; Original data: Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.
5. 1880 Tobias Bentz Census: Monaghan, York, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1205; Family History Film: 1255205; Page: 211A; Enumeration District: 2; 1880 United States Federal Census, Provo, UT, USA; Original data: Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.
6. 1910 Ervin H. Bentz Census: Warrington, York, Pennsylvania; Roll: T624_1434; Page: 3B; Enumeration District: 102; Image: 856; 1910 United States Federal Census, Provo, UT, USA; Original data: Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910 (NARA microfilm publication T624, 1,178 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

End Notes

¹ Michael Bentz Will: Wills and Estate Records, York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402.

² Michael Bentz Marriages and Children: Some researchers believe Michael was married twice; two ladies named Susan or Susanna. There were two Michael Bentz's and we believe these researchers mixed them up. One was to Susan Heiges who was born June 14th 1834 to William and Susan Heikes, and died June 1st 1915 at 81 years old, memorial June 2nd 1915, buried June 8th 1915. She was married to Heiges, and she had the following children: Peter and William Heiges of Franklintown, Martin Heiges of Harrisburg, and Tobias Heiges of Pottstown.

³ Alice Barbara Sollenberger: Some researchers believed that Alice B. Sollenberger is the sister of Tobias's 2nd wife, Anna Marry Sollenberger. This is inaccurate; Anna's sister is Alice Susan Sollenberger who married Calvin Knaub in 1890. This information came from two sources: Christian and Catherine Sollenberger Shultz Family Bible; and the biography of Jacob M. Sollenberger (1832-1899), Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA, 17372.

⁴ Alice Barbara Sollenberger Name and Family: A number of sources were used to determine her name.

- Alice B. is identified on the Tobias Bentz family headstone located at the Barrens Lutheran Church and Cemetery, Warrington Township York County Pennsylvania.
- The 1900 Christian Sollenberger Federal Census Record for Harrisburg Dauphin County cited in the bibliography, identified Tobias's son Albert A. Bentz as a nephew to Christian and Emma Sollenberger. Also living with Christian and Emma was a niece, Alice A. Hildebrandt, who was single.
- In 1870 Christian is living with his parents Cyrus and Martha Sollenberger in Carroll Township York County Pennsylvania, and Alice is living in York Pennsylvania with John and Magdalena King.
- In 1860 Christian Sollenberger and his sister Barbara were living with Cyrus and Martha Sollenberger of Carroll Township York County Pennsylvania.
- Cyrus Sollenberger is not directly related to Tobias's 2nd wife's family; Jacob M. Sollenberger and his lineage to John Sollenberger (1771-1855) and Barbara Yockey (1775-1836). However, Cyrus and Jacob may have a relationship to a brother of John Sollenberger (1771-1855). At present, this is unknown.