

Tobias Bentz (1853-1934)

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 about 1874 in York County Pennsylvania. ¹ Alice Barbara Sollenberger was born 1855 to Cyrus Sollenberger and Martha Fortney in Carroll Township York County Pennsylvania. ² Tobias and Alice lived in Monaghan Township York County Pennsylvania. Alice died June 2nd 1887 resulting from the birth of her son, William Michael Bentz, who also died June 2nd 1887.

After Alice died Tobias hired Anna (Annie) Mary Sollenberger ³ to help him around the house. Annie got pregnant, and on March 18th 1890 Tobias and Annie were married by Reverend Heisler. ⁴ Anna was born November 22nd 1864 near Churchtown, Monroe Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania to Jacob M. Sollenberger and Mary Ann Diller. ⁵

For a time Tobias and Anna lived in Warrington Township York County. By 1915 the family moved to 518 Forrest Street in Harrisburg Pennsylvania, where Tobias worked as a Stable Boss for the local Coal Company.

On March 25th 1920 Anna was visiting her daughter Hattie and her new born baby at the Wrightstone farm in New Cumberland. Anna returned home on the local Trolley, and later that evening Anna Mary Sollenberger died at age 54 of heart failure. ⁶ She was laid to rest with Tobias's 1st wife and children at the Barrens Lutheran Church and Cemetery, Warrington Township York County Pennsylvania.

After Anna died, Tobias began working as a janitor for the local school, and Anna's sister, Julia Sollenberger, moved in with Tobias. Both Tobias and Julia would continue to live at 518 Forrest Street in Harrisburg, when Tobias went to visit his daughter in Kralltown York County. While visiting Tobias was suddenly stricken Friday afternoon at his daughter's home in Kralltown, and died of cerebral apoplexy the next day, July 14th 1934, without regaining consciousness. He was 80 years - 7 months - 9 days at his. ⁷ He was laid to rest with his family at Barrens Lutheran Church and Cemetery, Warrington Township York County.

- "Tobias was a well known retired farmer of Kralltown. He had been visiting with a friend Cornelius Krall, a local blacksmith. He then left for home, and stopped across the street from his daughter's home, to talk to her neighbor, Daniel Wonders. After a brief conversation, Tobias said, "I must go home as we're going to Dillsburg tonight to hear the Loysville Orphans' Band." His grandson was a member of the band.

As Tobias crossed the street, he fell to the ground. He was carried to his daughter's home, and Dr. H. B. Hetrick of Wellsville was summoned. Tobias was a son of the late Michael and Susan Bentz, of near Wellsville, and was the first of the four children to die.

Tobias leaves a brother and two sisters, all of whom are past the three score and ten year mark. Surviving are four daughters; Mrs. Joseph Smith at whose home death occurred; Mrs. Roy (Nettie) Firestone, Mechanicsburg; Mrs. Harry (Gertrude) Burgard, Dillsburg R. D.; and Mrs. Samuel (Margaret) Sweigert, New Cumberland; one son Albert Bentz, Homestead; seven grandchildren; a brother, Ervin H. Bentz, Dillsburg; two sisters, Mrs. Bertha Firestone, Dillsburg, and Mrs. Cordella Hartman, Mechanicsburg.

Funeral services were at the home Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock with further services at 2:30 o'clock in Barrens Lutheran Church. Reverend J. O. Weigle, pastor of the Mechanicsburg Church of God, assisted by the Reverend George A. Livingston of the Dillsburg Lutheran church, will officiate. Burial will be in the cemetery adjoining the church." ⁸

Tobias Bentz and Alice B. Sollenberger had five children.

- i. Berta A. Bentz was born 1875 and died in 1878. ⁹
- ii. Albert Earl Bentz (1878-1941)
- iii. Gertrude V. Bentz was born March 1881. She was 21 years old when she married 27 year old Harry Jacob Burgard on June 25th 1903 in Dillsburg York County Pennsylvania. Harry was born April 1875 to John and Mary Burgard. ¹⁰

Gertie and Harry lived at the Burgard home on the Mountain Road area of Monaghan Township York County Pennsylvania. Harry and Gertie were laid to rest in the Filey's Church Cemetery, near Siddonsburg and Dillsburg Pennsylvania. Harry and Gertie Burgard's children were:

- a. Robert Lee Burgard was born on June 14th 1903. ¹¹ He died in 1979, and was laid to rest next to his parents at Filey's Church Cemetery.
- b. Evelyn M Burgard was born May 12th 1904. ¹² Evelyn married Paul Myers, and they had two boys.
- c. Clair B. Burgard was born November 28th 1906. ¹³ He died in 1984, and was laid to rest next to his parents at Filey's Church Cemetery.
- iv. Laura V. Bentz was born October 1879. She married Joseph H. Smith April 19th 1898. They made their application for marriage on April 19th 1898. ¹⁴ Their children are: Verna A. Smith was born October 1897; Ida J. Smith was born 1903; Child that had died; Romaine G. Smith was born 1908. Joseph and Laura lived on Mine Bank Road and Wellsville Road Washington Township York County Pennsylvania. In 1930 they lived in Kralltown; this is where Tobias died while visiting in 1934.
- v. William Michael Bentz was born and died June 2nd 1887.

Tobias Bentz and Annie Sollenberger had two children.

- vi. Nettie A. Bentz was born September 4th 1890. She married Roy Henry Firestone on March 29th 1908. They made their application for marriage on March 24th 1908. Roy was born April 6th 1888 in Dillsburg York County Pennsylvania to Jacob A. and Addie M. Firestone. Jacob and Addie married in 1883. ¹⁵

Nettie and Roy lived with Roy's parents on Stevenstown Road Carroll Township York County Pennsylvania. Nettie and Roy were laid to rest in the Mechanicsburg Cemetery.

Roy and Nettie Firestone's children were:

- a. Gertrude E. Firestone was born October 28th 1908,¹⁶ and at age 20 in 1929 she married John W. Neff. John was 32 years old and was born in 1897.

At that time Gertrude and John lived with her parents Roy and Nettie Firestone in Upper Allen Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania.

Gertrude had been employed at the former Grantham Sewing Factory; was a cook at several restaurants in the Mechanicsburg area; and was a member of Shepherdstown United Methodist Church and the Marine Corps League Auxiliary.

She was 86 years old when she died Tuesday December 27th 1994 died Tuesday at the Holy Spirit Hospital. She was living at Bethany Towers, Lower Allen Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania. Gertrude was laid to rest next to her husband in the Mechanicsburg cemetery in Mechanicsburg Pennsylvania.

Gertrude and John Neff had two daughters: Shirley Albright of San Antonio, Texas, and Judy Miller of Shermans Dale;¹⁷

- vii. Margaret L. Bentz was born on August 15th 1905.¹⁸ She married Samuel Henry Sweigert Jr. August 30th 1929 in Harrisburg Dauphin County Pennsylvania. Samuel was born May 13th 1908¹⁹ to Samuel H. Sweigert Sr. and Emma M. Nicholson.²⁰

Samuel died July 18th 1981. Margaret was 95 years old when she died December 2nd 2000 while living in Carlisle Pennsylvania.²¹ She and Samuel were laid to rest in the St Johns Church Cemetery in Hampden Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania.²²

Albert Earl Bentz (1877-1941)

Albert Earl Bentz was born September 28th 1877 to Tobias Bentz and Alice Sollenberger. He was baptized March 19th 1893 at Barrens Lutheran Church.

In 1900 Albert was living with his Uncle Christian F. Sollenberger and his wife Emma at 170 North Street Harrisburg Pennsylvania. Christian was an older brother of Albert's mother, Alice Barbara Sollenberger. At the time Christian was a commercial trader of dry goods, and Albert was a piano salesman.

Albert married Hettie Ann Culbertson²³ in 1907. This was Hettie's second marriage. She was born November 28th 1881 in Homestead Allegheny County Pennsylvania.

Albert and Hettie lived in Homestead Allegheny County Pennsylvania. We have a decorative cardboard framed photo of Albert wearing what appears to be a Knights of Columbus outfit. The frame of the photo is marked Homestead PA.

In 1910 Albert, Hettie, and their son Clair lived in Homestead Park, Mifflin Township Allegheny County Pennsylvania. Albert is a motorman on a street car. In 1920 they lived in R.D. #1 Homestead, Mifflin Township, and Albert was a conductor and assistant superintendent for Homestead and Mifflin Railway.

By 1930 Albert, Hettie, and Clair lived on Main Street in the borough of Munhall Mifflin Township Allegheny County Pennsylvania. At that time Albert was a dispatcher for the street cars out of the car barn.

Albert was listed in the 1939-1940 Homestead Borough Directory, but he was not in the 1941 directory. In 1939-40 directories Albert and Hettie lived at 4000 Main Street. He was listed as a dispatcher for the electric railway, and would have been 63 years old. Hettie would have been 58 years old. We lost them after that.

Albert died July 16th 1941. Hettie died December 26th 1956 while living in St. Petersburg Pinellas County Florida.²⁴ When Hettie died in 1956, her brother Hugh Culbertson, completed the historical record on Hettie, and at the time Hugh lived on Caroline Street in Homestead Park Allegheny County Pennsylvania.²⁵

They were both laid to rest in Plot Section G29 Oak Knoll Lot 439 and Section G41 John the Baptist, Lot 327 in the Jefferson Memorial Park cemetery located in Pleasant Hills, Allegheny County Pennsylvania.

Albert and Hettie had one child.

- i. Clair Culbertson Bentz was born May 23rd 1908. There is a newspaper article; Big Damage Suit involving Clair Bentz of Munhall Pennsylvania. From Pittsburg Common Pleas Court, W. Roy Wilson and his wife were seeking \$50,000 in damages for the death of their son, Wilbert R. Wilson, 28 years old from Munhall Pennsylvania. Clair Bentz is named as the defendant in the suit. In August 1931, Wilson was a passenger in the car driven by Clair, when it hit a tree on Clairton Road, and Wilson was killed.²⁶ Clair died October 7th 1936, and was laid to rest next to his parents in Plot Section G29 Oak Knoll Lot 439 and Section G41 John the Baptist, Lot 327 in the Jefferson Memorial Park cemetery located in Pleasant Hills, Allegheny County Pennsylvania.²⁷

Bibliography

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5. 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.
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8. 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.

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10. 1900 Ervin H. Bentz Census: Warrington, York, Pennsylvania; Roll: T623_1502; Page: 8B; Enumeration District: 177; 1900 United States Federal Census, Provo, UT, USA; Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900. T623, 1854 rolls.
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19. 1920 Laura V. Bentz-Smith Census: Washington, York, Pennsylvania; Roll: 2166; Page: 11A; Enumeration District: 80; Image: 628.0; 1930 United States Federal Census, Provo, UT, USA; Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census, Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930; T626, 2,667 rolls.
20. WWI Roy Henry Firestone Draft Registration: York County, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1927082; Draft Board: 1; World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, Provo, UT, USA; Original data: United States, Selective Service System. World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. Washington, D.C., National Archives and Records Administration; M1509, 4,582 rolls.
21. WWI Joseph H. Smith Draft Registration: York County, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1927083; Draft Board: 1; World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, Provo, UT, USA; Original data: United States, Selective Service System. World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, M1509, 4,582 rolls.
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24. 1940 Albert E. Bentz Census: Munhall, Allegheny, Pennsylvania; Roll: T627_3412; Page: 19A; Enumeration District: 2-380; United States of America, Bureau of the Census; Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1940; T627, 4,643 rolls.

End Notes

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ Anna Sollenberger: Anna is not directly related to Tobias's 1st wife, Alice B. Sollenberger. See End Note #3.

⁴ Tobias Bentz and Anna Sollenberger Marriage: Marriages (1885-1929), Application #3361, License Book I, Page 166, York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402; Bentz Marriages, Taylor ~ Graham Families, Boog Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA, 17372

⁵ Anna Mary Sollenberger Family: This information came for the biography of Jacob M. Sollenberger (1832-1899), Taylor ~ Graham Families, Boog Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA, 17372.

⁶ Anna Sollenberger-Bentz Death: The circumstances surrounding Anna death came from hand written notes from Edwin's and Hattie's daughter, Julia Wrightstone-Edmunds; Clyde is a son of Edwin and Hattie who was born in 1916, which suggest that the Wrightstone's lived in the Franklinton area when Clyde was born, before they moved to the Newberry Township area; Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372.

⁷ Tobias Bentz Death: News Article, Page Two, The News Comet, East Berlin, Pennsylvania, July 20, 1934; Taylor ~ Graham Families, Boog Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA, 17372.

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- ⁸ Tobias Bentz Death: Front page, The Gettysburg Times, Gettysburg Pennsylvania, Monday Evening, July 16th 1934; Transcribed, Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road York Springs Pennsylvania 17372
- ⁹ Bertha A. Bentz Birth and Death: This information came from the Tobias Bentz family headstone located at the Barrens Lutheran Church and Cemetery, Warrington Township York County Pennsylvania.
- ¹⁰ Gertrude V. Bentz Marriage: The information came from Reference ID: 21011 Cumberland Co.; GS Film Number: 21011, Digital Folder Number: 004811553, Image Number: 00189, Pennsylvania, County Marriages, 1885-1950, index and images, FamilySearch, <https://familysearch.org>, Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road York Springs Pennsylvania 17372
- ¹¹ Robert Lee Burgard Birth: Birth Records (1893-1906) Book 04, Page 014, York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402
- ¹² Evelyn M Burgard Birth: Birth Records (1893-1906) Book 04, Page 01, York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402
- ¹³ Clair B. Burgard Birth: Birth Records (1893-1906) Book 05, Page 021, York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402
- ¹⁴ Laura V. Bentz Marriage: Marriages (1185-1929), Application #10620, License Book Q, Page-304, York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402
- ¹⁵ Nettie Bentz and Roy Firestone Marriage; Marriages (1185-1929), Application #20669, York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402
- ¹⁶ Gertrude Firestone Birth: The birth date came from 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
- ¹⁷ Gertrude E. Firestone Neff Information: This information came from her obituary, Patriot-News, The (Harrisburg, PA) - Thursday, December 29, 1994; Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.
- ¹⁸ Margaret Bentz Birth: The information came from the birth Records (1893-1906) Book 05, Page 009, York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402.
- ¹⁹ Samuel H. Sweigert Birth Date: The date came from his funeral memorial card, Gilbert W. Pathmore Funeral Home, 1303 Bridge Street New Cumberland Pennsylvania; Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.
- ²⁰ Margaret Bentz Marriage: The information came from their marriage application, Reference ID: Film 2105 P150 R 543, GS Film Number: 21205, Digital Folder Number: 004455285, Image Number: 00284, Pennsylvania, County Marriages, 1885-1950, index and images, FamilySearch, <https://familysearch.org>, Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.

²¹ Margaret Sweigert Death and Burial: Sweigert, Margaret L (Bentz); 95; Carlisle PA; Harrisburg Patriot News; 2000-12-4; Sweigert, Margaret L (Bentz); 95; South Middleton Twp PA; Sentinel; 2000-12-4; S Sweigert, Margaret L (Bentz); 95; South Middleton Twp PA; Sentinel; 2000-12-4; Social Security Administration; Social Security Death Index, Master File; Social Security Administration.

²² Samuel H. Sweigert Death and Burial: The date and burial location came from his funeral memorial card, Gilbert W. Pathmore Funeral Home, 1303 Bridge Street New Cumberland Pennsylvania; Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.

²³ Hettie Ann Culbertson Name: The information came from Hettie's brother, Hugh Culbertson, who completed the Family Historical Records at the Jefferson Memorial Park Cemetery located at Pleasant Hills, Allegheny County Pennsylvania; Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.

²⁴ Hettie Bentz Death: The information came from Hettie's brother, Hugh Culbertson, who completed the Family Historical Records at the Jefferson Memorial Park Cemetery located at Pleasant Hills, Allegheny County Pennsylvania; Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.

²⁵ Hettie Ann Culbertson Name: The information came from Hettie's brother, Hugh Culbertson, who completed the Family Historical Records at the Jefferson Memorial Park Cemetery located at Pleasant Hills, Allegheny County Pennsylvania; Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.

²⁶ Clair Bentz Court Case: The specifics of the case came from the Monessen Daily Independent, Volume 30, No. 22, Front Page, Friday February 26th 1932.

²⁷ Clair Culbertson Bentz Name, Birth, Death, and Burial: The information came from his headstone located at the Jefferson Memorial Park Cemetery located at Pleasant Hills, Allegheny County Pennsylvania; Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.