

Ulrich Sollenberger (1717-1767)

It has been reported from various sources that the Sollenberger family originated in Knappelen, Wynigen, Bern, Switzerland. That Ulrich Sollenberger arrived in America in Philadelphia in 1737 on the ship "Andrew Galley" from Rotterdam via Cowes. The name may have been Zolberger.

Other English spellings of the name include, Solinbarger, Solenbarger, and Sollenberger.

Ulrich died in 1767 in Tulpehocken Township Berks County Pennsylvania. One of Ulrich's sons was Michael, who was born 1746 in Berks County. In 1794 Michael moved to Botetourt County Virginia, where he died in 1810.

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

Michael's son, John Sollenberger, was born in Lancaster County, and died in 1855 while living in Cumberland County. John married Barbara Yockey in 1793 while living in Cumberland County Pennsylvania. He and Barbara are buried on the family farm about 150 yards southeast of the house.

What we know is sometime during the early 17th century German migration into Colonial Pennsylvania, four Sollenberger brothers emigrated from Western Germany. ² They settled in Lancaster County Pennsylvania, where they began their families in and around present day New Holland Pennsylvania. It was here our Sollenberger patriarch, John Sollenberger was born July 23rd 1771.

What follows is supposition by a number of researchers, which we have no verifiable data that supports their findings.

Ulrich Sollenberger ³ was born in 1717 in Switzerland. ⁴ It was reported that Ulrich arrived in Colonial Philadelphia Pennsylvania on the ship "St. Andrew Galley" from Rotterdam via Cowes England. It was also reported that he took the oath of Allegiance on Sept 26th 1737. ⁵ It may have been as early as 1737, or he may have immigrated in 1750. There is another source that indicates Ulrich moved to Botetourt County Virginia about 1794. In Virginia he purchased land on the east side of Tinker Creek, and on the Roanoke River and on Carvins Creek.

Ulrich married Maria about 1742 in Pennsylvania. Maria was born before 1732 in Pennsylvania. ⁶

Ulrich died in 1767 at Tulpehocken Township Berks County Pennsylvania. He was buried in Berks County.

Ulrich and Maria had the following children:

- i. Michael Sollenberger (1745-1810)
- ii. Barbara Sollenberger (1748 -)
- iii. Joseph Sollenberger (1750 -)
- iv. Elizabeth Sollenberger (1751 -)
- v. Mary (Maria) Sollenberger (1760 -)
- vi. Samuel Sollenberger (1760 -)

Michael Sollenberger (1745-1810)

Michael Sollenberger was born about 1745 in Berks County Pennsylvania. He died about 1810 in Botetourt County Virginia, and is buried in Berks County Pennsylvania. In 1770 he married Sarah in Tulpehocken Township Berks County. Sarah was born before 1757 in Berks County Pennsylvania.

Michael and Sarah Sollenberger had the following children.

- i. John Sollenberger (1771-1855)
- ii. Elizabeth Sollenberger (1775 -)
- iii. Susannah Sollenberger (1780 -)
- iv. Joseph Sollenberger (1782 -) born in Berks County Pennsylvania
- v. Samuel Sollenberger was born December 29th 1783
- vi. Michael S. Sollenberger was born June 24th 1786

Bibliography

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6. 1790 Joseph Joseph Solinbarger-Solembarger (Sollenberger) Census: Hopewell, Newton, Tyborn, and Westpensboro, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Series: M637; Roll: 8; Page: 37; Image: 554; Family History Library Film: 0568148; First Census of the United States, 1790 (NARA microfilm publication M637, 12 rolls; Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

End Notes

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

² Western Germany: This area of Germany borders present day Switzerland, France, Luxemborg, Belgium, Netherlands, and Denmark. The Rhine River sits in this region.

³ Sollenberger Name: Ulrich Sollenberger's children used the names Solinbarger, Solenbarger, and Sollenberger. There were also other spellings: Solenberger - Sullenberger - Solinbarger, - Solenbarger – Sollenberger

⁴ Ulrich Sollenberger Switzerland Origins: He was probably from the area of Appenzell and St. Gallen. There is a Sollen Tahl (Sollen Valley) in Eastern Switzerland. The name may have been Zolberger originally.

⁵ Ulrich Sollenberger's Colonial Arrival: The information came from a letter written by Katharine Farr in 1974; It was reported by researchers that Ulrich arrived in Philadelphia Pennsylvania on the ship "St. Andrew Galley" from Rotterdam via Cowes, England. It was also reported that he took the oath of Allegiance on Sept 26th 1737. The original ship list, only one name is legible (Jospeh Zollborger) and there is no name resembling Ulrich or Zollborger. There is a rewritten ship list that list Ulrich Zollborger, so it can't be determined who rewrote the original ships list, or how or where they see the name Ulrich on board the St. Andrew Galley ship.

⁶ Ulrich Sollenberger Information: The information on Ulrich came from Page 340, A History of Highland County, Virginia, by Morton.