

The Families Of

Jacob M. Sollenberger
York and Cumberland County Pennsylvania
1832 - 1899

Introduction

My maternal grandmother was Irene Mary Wrightstone.ⁱ Her mother's maternal grandparents were Jacob M. Sollenberger and Mary Ann Diller. These families lived in Monroe Township near Churchtown Cumberland County Pennsylvania. In 1867 Samuel C. Diller, Mary's father, and his family and Jacob Sollenberger, moved to Franklin Township York County Pennsylvania. Samuel owned a number of farms off present day South Mountain Road, Dillsburg Pennsylvania. There are numerous photos of this family.ⁱⁱ

Jacob is a son of Joseph Sollenberger (1798-1882), whose father was John Sollenberger (1771-1855).ⁱⁱⁱ

5th Generation

Jacob M. Sollenberger (1832 – 1899)

5. v Jacob M. Sollenberger: (*Joseph-4, John-3, Michael-2, Ulrich-1*) Jacob was born on July 18th 1832 in Dickinson Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania. He was a farmer and farm laborer in Dickenson Township and Churchtown area of Monroe Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania. He married Mary Ann Diller while living in Cumberland County. Mary was the oldest daughter of Samuels C. Diller and Catherine Richwine.^{iv} Jacob and Mary lived and farmed in Cumberland County for over twenty years before purchasing a farm on present day South Mountain Road, Franklin Township York County Pennsylvania. Mary's father Samuel Diller also purchased a number of farms in the same area, and moved there with his family in 1867. Sometime after 1880, Jacob and Mary sold their farm, and purchased a small place in Uniontown, at present day Union Church Road and South Mountain Road Dillsburg Pennsylvania.

Jacob was 66 years old when he fell ill with Dropsy (Edema).^v After two weeks he died on May 29th 1899¹ while living in Franklin Township York County Pennsylvania. He is buried with his wife, and other Sollenberger's at the Mount Zion Cemetery, Monroe Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania.²

Mary Ann Diller-Sollenberger was born on November 30th 1829. She died January 8th 1913 at the age of 84, shortly after the 1912 Sollenberger family reunion that was held at her home in Uniontown. She is buried with her husband and son Abraham at the Mount Zion Cemetery, Monroe Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania.³

Many of the Diller and Sollenberger men were ministers and pastors. The 1900 census indicated that Jacob and Mary had 8 children born, and 7 are still living. Together Jacob and Mary Sollenberger had six sons and 4 daughters.

6. i Catherine Ann Sollenberger (1855-1880)
- ii Simon Joseph Sollenberger (1857-)
- iii Diller Samuel Sollenberger (1858-)
- iv Levi Cyrus Sollenberger (1861-)
- v Abraham A. Sollenberger (1862-1864)
- vi Anna Mary Sollenberger (1864-1920)
- vii Alice Susan Sollenberger (1866-)
- viii Ira Jacob Sollenberger (1870-1953)
- ix Julia Ann Sollenberger (1872-1931)

ⁱ Edwin Underwood Wrightstone (1874 – 1957), Taylor~Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA, 17372

ⁱⁱ High resolution digital copies, Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ John Sollenberger (1771-1855), Ibid.

^{iv} Samuel C. Diller (1809-1873), Ibid.

^v Book 1, Page 400, Affidavit of Deaths, June 1st 1899, York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402

6. i Catherine Ann Sollenberger: (*Jacob-5, Joseph-4, John-3, Michael-2, Ulrich-1*) Catherine was born on July 24th 1855 in Monroe Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania. She married Christian Shultz on May 21st 1874 at York Sulphur Springs by Rev. S. A. Hedges. Reverend Hedges was pastor between 1871 and 1878 at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church York Springs Adams County Pennsylvania.⁴ Christian Shultz was born on December 25th 1843. Catherine died on September 21st 1880 at 25 years, 1 month, 21 days. Christian married again in 1873 to Sarah J. Christian died on November 25th 1906 at 62 years and 11 month.⁵ Christian and Catherine had no children.

6. ii Simon Jacob Sollenberger: (*Jacob-5, Joseph-4, John-3, Michael-2, Ulrich-1*) Simon was born February 18th 1857 in Monroe Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania. He married Catherine K. Aker in 1877. She was born May 27th 1858 near Mt. Top, Warrington Township York County Pennsylvania. Mt. Top is about five miles east of Dillsburg on Route 74. Catherine died at 60 years old in York Pennsylvania on August 30th 1918.

Simon was a farmer, and moved often within the York and Cumberland County areas. In 1880 Simon and his wife Catherine lived in South Middleton Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania, and Catharine Aker's mother Elizabeth was living with them. Elizabeth Aker was born about 1816. Simon was a farm laborer in 1880.

In 1900 Simon and his family were living at 211 North Duke Street, North York, York County Pennsylvania. Simon was working as a grocer. In 1900 William was a day laborer, and Harry was a cigar maker. Simon died at 3:15 P.M. on November 15th 1929 in York Pennsylvania.^{vi}

By 1920 Simon retired as a farmer, and together they lived in York Pennsylvania. Their children were:

7. i Elsie May Sollenberger was born in Franklin Township, Post Office area of Clear Springs York County Pennsylvania on December 5th 1877. She married George Jacoby early in life, and together they had two sons; George J. Jacob who was born 1899; and John Jacob who was born in 1901. George died September 1902 and Elsie then married Charles Mitzel in 1915, and together they had one child; Velvie Mitzel.

7. ii William Jacob Sollenberger was born in Franklin Township, Post Office area of Clear Springs York County Pennsylvania on March 13th 1879. He married Nettie Dietz. William was a travelling salesman for the Safe and Lock Company of York Pennsylvania. William died April 21st 1916. William and Nettie had four children who all lived in York Pennsylvania:

- 8. i Russell Sollenberger
- ii Raymond Sollenberger
- iii Ruth
- iv Rita

7. iii Harry Diller Sollenberger was born June 14th 1880 near Boling Springs, near the border of Dickenson and Monroe Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania. This area of Cumberland County is the Sollenberger homestead area where his father Jacob Sollenberger was born and raised. Not more than 10 miles from Franklin Township, Post Office area of Clear Springs York County Pennsylvania. Harry married Elizabeth Manahan who was born June 4th 1884 in Harrisburg Dauphin County Pennsylvania. Harry worked in selling life insurance. Harry and Elizabeth did not have any children.

7. iv Maurice (Morris) George Sollenberger was born June 1st 1884 near Davidsburg York County Pennsylvania. He married Edith Arnold of Harrisburg Dauphin County Pennsylvania. Morris was a builder and contractor in Harrisburg, where he most likely affiliated with his Uncle Diller Sollenberger, who a well know building contractor in Harrisburg. Morris and his wife had two daughters who were born and lived in Harrisburg.

- 8. v Ester Sollenberger
- vi Anna Sollenberger

^{vi} Vol 24, Page 309, Affidavit of Deaths, June 1st 1899, York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402

7. v James Harrison Sollenberger was born near York Haven York County Pennsylvania on April 29th 1888. He married Mary Hershey of York Pennsylvania. James worked as the auto sales and service business in York Pennsylvania. James died when he was 30 years old on October 15th 1918.^{vii} After James died, Mary and their only child lived with her parents in York Pennsylvania.

8. vii Sybilla

7. vii Earl Raymond Sollenberger was born near York Haven York County Pennsylvania on June 3rd 1894 in Davidsburg York County Pennsylvania. He married Emia Storegh of York Pennsylvania. Earl worked with his brother James in the auto sales and service business. As of 1921, Earl and Emia had no children.

7. vi Alice was born March 5th 1895 in Dover York County Pennsylvania. She married Sterling Eyler and they had two children who live with their parents in York Pennsylvania; Catherine Sterling, and Kenneth Sterling.

6. iii Diller Samuel Sollenberger: (*Jacob-5, Joseph-4, John-3, Michael-2, Ulrich-1*) Diller was born in August 28th 1858 in Monroe Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania. Diller married Mary Jane Kochenour on August 19th 1877. She was born September 1856 in Franklintown York County Pennsylvania. Franklintown would be about 3 miles from the Family farm in Franklin Township York County. Diller and his wife moved to Harrisburg Dauphin County Pennsylvania in the spring of 1881. While in Harrisburg, Diller became a well known contractor and builder, having built some of the largest school buildings and churches in Harrisburg.

In 1900 they lived at 523 Peffer Street of the 6th ward Harrisburg Dauphin County Pennsylvania. Diller was a building contractor and house carpenter. In 1910 they lived at the same residence, and their daughter Naomi and her husband Jeremiah Reed lived in the next house at 525 Peffer Street. Maggie N. Kouchenour age 4 (b.1896) was a niece or step niece, who lived with them in 1900 and 1910. Diller died on his 57th birthday, August 28th 1915, in Harrisburg. Diller and Mary Ann had 5 children, 3 were still living in 1900.

7. viii and ix Twins born March 22nd 1878 and died in infancy; Franklin Township York County.

7. x Clinton A. Sollenberger who was born November 28th 1879 on Mountain Road in Franklin Township York County. He married Stella K. Sargent from Annville Pennsylvania September 3rd 1901. Clinton was a building contractor like his father, and Cousin Morris Sollenberger. By 1920 he became a minister and lived in Philadelphia Pennsylvania. Clinton and Stella had one son.

8. viii Charles Samuel Diller who was born November 11th 1901.

7. xi Naomi A. Sollenberger who was born May 23rd 1885 in Harrisburg Dauphin County Pennsylvania. She married Jeremiah (Jerry) Ellsworth. Reed. Jerry was born August 5th 1886 and he died May 23rd 1918. Jerry and Naomi had three children: Mary E. Reed; Ruth A. Reed; and Jerry Ellsworth reed Jr. Naomi remarried October 9th 1919 to Christian C. Kauffman. Christian and Naomi had no children.

7. xii Harry (Guy) Diller Sollenberger who was born August 29th 1891 in Harrisburg Dauphin County Pennsylvania. He married Ella Sewart of Ickesburg Perry County Pennsylvania on January 13th 1913. By 1921 they had one child.

8. ix Mary Catharine Sollenberger was born

6. iv Levi Cyrus Sollenberger: (*Jacob-5, Joseph-4, John-3, Michael-2, Ulrich-1*) Levi was born October 8th 1859 in Monroe Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania. He married Mary E. Smith who was born March 10th 1859. By 1920 Levi retired from being a minister, and they both lived in Harrisburg Pennsylvania. Levi was a minister in Perry County Pennsylvania. Levi and Mary had three children.

7. xiii Elmer S. Sollenberger was born September 13th 1878. He married Alma Ersman of Lancaster Pennsylvania in 1900. Elmer and Alma had one child: Katherine Sollenberger who was born about 1901.

^{vii} Vol 20, Page 080, Affidavit of Deaths, June 1st 1899, York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402

7. xiv Ada F. Sollenberger was born March 24th 1883. She married Reverend Charles D. Collins of York Pennsylvania in 1907. Together they had: Cloyd Collins who was born about 1910; Ralph Collins who was born about 1911; Marbin Collins who was born about 1917; and Thelma who was born about 1919.

7. xv Rosie A. Sollenberger was born July 30th 1887. She married John Wherley in 1905. Their children were: Marie Wherley who as born about 1905; Donald who was born about 1919

6. v Abraham A. Sollenberger: (*Jacob-5, Joseph-4, John-3, Michael-2, Ulrich-1*) Abraham was born October 22nd 1862 in Monroe Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania. He died March 18th 1864 while the family lived in Monroe Township. He is buried with his parents at the Mount Zion Cemetery, Monroe Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania⁶

6. vi Anna (Annie) Mary Sollenberger: (*Jacob-5, Joseph-4, John-3, Michael-2, Ulrich-1*) Anna was born November 27th 1864 in Monroe Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania. In the fall of 1882 Anna would be a young eighteen year old women living in rural Franklin Township York County. It was during this time that a farm laborer named Luther Arnold^{viii} worked on the farms of Anna's Uncles, Cyrus and Simon Diller. The family story is that Anna was raped by Luther Arnold. There was no marriage, and there is a York County charge against Luther, resulting in court case #041 for the August 1883 court docket. The charge against Luther was fornication and bastardy.^{7 ix}

That illegitimate child is Hattie Amelia Arnold, my Great Grandmother. Hattie was born June 7th 1883 in Franklin Township York County at the Sollenberger home on present day South Mountain Road Dillsburg, Franklin Township York County Pennsylvania. Hattie's parents where Anna (Annie) Mary Sollenberger and Luther H. Arnold. Anna and Hattie lived with Anna's parents on Mountain Road until Anna married Tobias Bentz on March 18th 1890.⁸ Tobias's first wife was Alice B. Sollenberger who was born in 1855, and died June 2nd 1887. Tobias and Alice had three children; two daughters and one son.^x There is currently no information on whether Anna Sollenberger and Alice Sollenberger are related, but I suspect they may be cousins. Tobias and Anna lived in the Siddonsburg area of Monaghan Township about five miles away from the Sollenberger farm where Hattie lived with her grandparents. As a young girl she would walk about a ½ mile from her Grandparent's Sollenberger farm to the Harmony Grove Church of God. This church is now called the Harmony Bethel Church of God, and is located at the intersection of present day South Mountain Road and Clear Springs Road, Franklin Township York County Pennsylvania.

After Hattie's grandfather Jacob Sollenberger died, Hattie lived with her grandmother Mary Ann Sollenberger in Uniontown, where the Diller family had a small apple orchard. This home was at the intersection of present day South Mountain Road and Union Church Road Dillsburg Pennsylvania, and parts of the orchard is still there, but overgrown. It is at this same intersection that Simon Diller had built a church, which burned down, and was later relocated across Mountain Road. Today this church is known as the Celebration Community Church on South Mountain Road Dillsburg. Simon Diller performed the marriage ceremony between Hattie and Edwin Wrightstone on December of 1902.^{xi} I suspect it was conducted in Simon's church at Uniontown, which was part of the Clear Springs post office area.

- On page 39 of the "Descendents of John Sollenberger" referenced in the bibliography, the author, D. L. Sollenberger compiled over a period of years the responses from Sollenberger family members, and the details of their family. Someone from Jacob and Mary Sollenberger's family replied to D. L. Sollenberger.
- Also on page 39 Hattie is identified as a child between Tobias and Anna Bentz. We know that Hattie's father was Luther Arnold, and that she used her name Hattie Arnold on the marriage license. But after her mother married Tobias in 1890, did Hattie become known as Hattie Bentz?

^{viii} John Arnold (1835-1918), Taylor ~ Graham Families, Boog Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA, 17372

^{ix} Fornication and Bastardy involves an illicit carnal connection, and is called by different names according to the situation that occurred, and in which it would be applied in the suit. If the suit is without facts and is aggravated by the plaintiff it, it is simply fornication. When it causes the birth of an illegitimate child, it is fornication and bastardy.

^x Michael Bentz (1830-1895), Ibid.

^{xi} Edwin Underwood Wrightstone (1874-1957), Ibid

Anna and Tobias were living in Harrisburg in 1920. Anna just returned by Trolley from visiting Hattie and her new born baby, Jim, in New Cumberland. In the evening after her visit with her daughter, Anna Mary Sollenberger died at age 54 of heart failure on March 25th 1920.

6. vii Alice Susan Sollenberger: (*Jacob-5, Joseph-4, John-3, Michael-2, Ulrich-1*) Alice was born December 7th 1866 in Monroe Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania. She married Calvin Knaub on January 2nd 1890, and they made their application for marriage on December 16th 1889.⁹ In 1880 Alice^{xii} is listed as living with her sister Catherine Sollenberger-Shultz. Together Alice and Calvin nine children: Bessie M. Knaub was born March 23rd 1893. She married R. Taylor on May 14th 1914; Harry Jacob Knaub was born March 23rd 1893. He married Theresa M. Boyle August 12th 1918. Harry and Theresa children were Harry Fredrick Knaub who was born June 19th 1913 and James Richard Knaub who was born July 8th 1921; Grace Julia Knaub was born February 13th 1896, and married Julius A. Speck on April 15th 1914. Grace and Julius Speck had two children: Alice L. Speck and John Calvin Speck; Ellen Laura Knaub was born April 29th 1897 and died January 17th 1913; Ruth Alice Knaub was born September 5th 1900; Ira Calvin Knaub was born February 2nd 1904; Sara Catherine Knaub was born May 2nd 1906 and died in infancy; Clara L. Knaub was born May 24th 1909.

In 1900 they lived not far from Alice's mother, Mary Ann Diller-Sollenberger and Hattie Arnold.

6. viii Ira Joseph Sollenberger: (*Jacob-5, Joseph-4, John-3, Michael-2, Ulrich-1*) Ira was born July 30th 1870 on Mountain Road in Franklin Township York County Pennsylvania. Ira was in Clear Springs on December 27th 1888. On January 2nd 1889,¹⁰ he married Annie M. Slothower of Warrington Township York County Pennsylvania. Annie was born in 1868 and died 1933.¹¹ Her father was Henry B. Slothower of Warrington Township York County Pennsylvania. Between 1910 and 1921 Ira was preaching the gospel and was the pastor at the Plainfield Church of God, Cumberland County Pennsylvania. In 1921 Ira and Annie lived in Dillsburg York County Pennsylvania. She and Ira had no children.

After Annie died at age 63, Ira married Elizabeth E who was born in 1873 and died 1969. Ira and Elizabeth (Lizzie) had no Children. Ira J. Sollenberger died in 1953.¹²

6. ix Julia Ann Sollenberger: (*Jacob-5, Joseph-4, John-3, Michael-2, Ulrich-1*) Julia was born April 22rd 1872 on Mountain Road in Franklin Township York County Pennsylvania. She did not marry, and lived with her parents until her mother died in 1913. She then became a housekeeper for her sister Annie and her husband Tobias, and remained with Tobias after Annie died in 1920.^{xiii} Julia died June 5th 1931 from a heart ailment, and is buried adjacent to her parents at the Mount Zion Cemetery, Monroe Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania.¹³

- Another child was identified in the 1880 census record for Jacob Sollenberger. Aaron J. Sollenberger would have been born in 1871. There was one Aaron Sollenberger that was related to Jacob, who was born in 1871. This Aaron would be the son of Jacob's cousin, Samuel Sollenberger. Jacob's and Samuel's fathers were brothers, sons of John Sollenberger and Barbara Yockey. Aaron Benedict Sollenberger Sr. was born August 2nd 1871, and died in 1932. He married Anna Landis on October 30th 1874. Aaron became a physician living in Waynesboro Franklin County Pennsylvania

^{xii} Alice Sollenberger was reported to be the 1st wife to Tobias Bentz, but she was not.

^{xiii} Death Notice, East Berlin and York Springs, New Comet, Volume LII, No. 22, June 12th 1931

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End Notes

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- ¹ Death Records (1893-1906) Book 01, Page 400, York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402
- ² Mount Zion Cemetery Grave Stone, Intersection of Rt74 (York Road) and 174 (Boiling Springs Road), Monroe Township, Cumberland County Pennsylvania
- ³ Ibid.
- ⁴ Adams County Church Records, York Springs, Chestnut Grove, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Records, 1831-1957, Fredrick S. Weiser, Adams County Historical Society, P.O. Box 4325, Gettysburg, PA 17325
- ⁵ Christian and Catherine Shultz Family Bible, Taylor ~ Graham Families, Boog Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA, 17372
- ⁶ Mount Zion Cemetery Grave Stone, Intersection of Rt74 (York Road) and 174 (Boiling Springs Road), Monroe Township, Cumberland County Pennsylvania
- ⁷ Clerk of Courts Quarter Session Dockets (1877-1949), case #041, Docket IR, Page 232, York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402
- ⁸ Marriages (1885-1929), Application #3361, License Book I Page 166, , York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402
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- ¹¹ Barrens valley Church Cemetery Grave Stone, Taylor ~ Graham Families, Boog Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA, 17372
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