

The Families Of

John Wrightstone
York County Pennsylvania
(1791 – 1856)

Introduction

The original spelling of the name was Richstein; meaning *the* “right stone.” According to family history, this Wrightstone branch of the Richstein family wanted to break from traditional German enclaves to experience more of the Colonial English influences. This branch of the family moved west toward these influences, which would cause a change to the spelling and pronunciation of Richstein to Rightstone. Between 1820 and 1830 the Rightstone name began to appear, with some slight variations. From all the local and federal records kept during this time, the only consistently English pronunciation and spellings of Rightstone over an extended period of time, came from Fairview Township York County. And by 1850 the name would be prominently pronounced and spelled as it is today.

In 1830 this branch of the Richstein family was headed by John Rightstone ⁱ and his brother ⁱⁱ Wm Rightstone. William was living with his mother who was 50-60 years old, and his other siblings. William’s brother John lived not far away with his own family. William’s 1880 census record indicated that his parents were both born in Pennsylvania. Between the 1830 and 1880 census records, we know that John and William’s mother was born in Pennsylvania between 1770 and 1780.

Since we know that John was born in 1791, I suspect the mother’s birth is about 1770 to 1775. Keeping in mind the German baptism naming traditions; it was a common practice in some German families to name the first born son after the child's paternal grandfather and the second born son after the maternal grandfather. An example is Johann Wilhelm Richstein; this person could have been known in German circles as William, but with English influences, this person may have also been recorded as John.

With what I assume is: John Rightstone (1791-1856) was named after his paternal grandfather, and William Rightstone (1807-1881) was named after his maternal grandfather. John’s first known son and second born, Michael, was either named after his paternal or maternal grandfathers, while William’s first son and first born, Jacob, was named after his paternal grandfather.

This all suggest the following about John’s and William’s lineage: their father’s name would be Jacob, and their grandfather’s name would have been John. German tradition the grandfather may have been Johann Jacob Richstein. German families would know him, and record him as Jacob, while the English may have recorded him as Jacob, or both. Other names may also have been Wilhelm for William, and Melchior for Michael.

So, it is a bit of a challenge to find the brother’s lineage. For continuing my research I’m using Jacob for the father and John for the grandfather’s names, and variations of these two names. I’m also assuming that the paternal father and grandfather of John and William are the first two earlier colonial Wrightstone generations.

Boog Graham

ⁱ John Wrightstone (1791-1856), Taylor ~ Graham Family Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA, 17372

ⁱⁱ This “brother” connection comes from the great-great grandson of John Wrightstone, who would visit the gravesite of William Wrightstone and family, recalling how they were his ancestors.

3rd Generation Wrightstone

John Wrightstone (1791 – 1856)

I want to thank other researchers who assisted me in this effort. ¹

3. i John Wrightstone: (*Jacob-2, Johann-1*) John was born about 1791 in Pennsylvania. ² He married Margaret Hart ³ about 1820. She was born about 1800 in Pennsylvania to Michael and Barbara Hart.

Michael Hart was born about 1778 in York County Pennsylvania, and died on September 12th 1811 in York County Pennsylvania. Michael Hart's parents were Jacob Hart born about 1720 in Germany, and died about 1811 in York County Pennsylvania. Jacob married Catherine Landis. ⁴

When John Wrightstone died, his 1856 Estate Settlement record indicated; "...decendent left a widow and eight children..." ⁵ John Wrightstone and Margaret Hart had the following children:

4. i Elizabeth Wrightstone: (*John-3, Jacob-2, John-1*) Elizabeth was born about 1821. She married George Whitmore (Witmer or Witmyer), September 26th 1844. ⁱⁱⁱ Elizabeth was named after her father's mother or for her mother. I'm certain it's a family name. ^{iv}

ii Unknown male child in the 1830 census who was born between 1820 and 1825. I cannot locate another male Wrightstone, that isn't already accounted for. This child may have died prior to

iii Michael Wrightstone: (*John-3, Jacob-2, John-1*) Michael was born on October 3rd 1825, and died November 5th 1903. He married Eliza Jane Kline ^v He was named for his mother's father, Michael Hart.

iv Sarah Ann Wrightstone: (*John-3, Jacob-2, John-1*) Sarah Ann was born August 31st 1827, and died at the December 1st 1909. ^{vi} I believe that Sarah may have been named after a Wrightstone family member; a grandmother or sister of John and William. In 1850 Sara Ann Richstone, age 23, lived in the household of John Becker, Conewago Township York County Pennsylvania. ⁶ Sarah Rightstone married Daniel S. Strine on August 18th 1853 in Conewago Township York County PA by F. Shetter J.P. ⁷ Daniel was born May 4th 1833, and died February 12th 1886. Daniel Strine's Parents were John and Catherine Strine.

v John Wrightstone: (*John-3, Jacob-2, John-1*) John was born September 19th 1830 and died August 27th 1905. He married Eliza Wire. ^{vii} John was named after his father.

vi Unknown male child was listed in the 1840 census record for Newberry Township, who would have been born between 1830 to 1835. Most likely about 1832. This child may have died before 1850 census record.

vii Jane Wrightstone: (*John-3, Jacob-2, John-1*) Jane was born about 1835. Jane may have married John M. Wilt of Conewago Twp. These names appeared on the Estate records of John Wrightstone; John M. Wilt of Conewago Township, Joseph McCreary of Newberry Twp, John W. Witmer Esq. of York, Elijah Ganetson and Israel Garetson both of Spring Garden Twp.

viii Samuel Wrightstone: (*John-3, Jacob-2, John-1*) Samuel was born about 1838. In 1850 he lived with the family in Conewago Township York County Pennsylvania. By 1860 Samuel moved to Monaghan Township,

ⁱⁱⁱ Newspaper Abstract, York County Heritage Trust Library and Archives, 250 East Market Street, York, PA, 17401

^{iv} Elizabeth was the first born child, and according to German naming traditions; 1st daughter after the father's mother

^v Michael Wrightstone (1825-1903), Taylor ~ Graham Family Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA, 17372

^{vi} From the headstone located at the Manchester Union Cemetery, Manchester Township, York County, Pennsylvania

^{vii} John Wrightstone (1830-1905), Taylor ~ Graham Family Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA, 17372

Lewisberry Area of York County. He lived about a mile from his brother's John and Michael in the home of Mr. J Myers as a farm laborer. By 1870 Samuel vanished. Possible Civil War connection

ix Margaret Ellen Wrightstone: (*John-3, Jacob-2, John-1*) Margaret was born about 1843-44. In 1860 she was 17 years old working as a servant maid in the home of Squire George Bowers, age 73, and Eve Bowers age 67, Strinestown, Conewago Twp. York County Pennsylvania. ⁸

x Barbara Ann Wrightstone: (*John-3, Jacob-2, John-1*) Barbara was born circa September 1849 in Conewago Township York County PA. This child may be Leah Sipe's child.

John and Margaret lived in Fairview Township York County, then prior to 1840 they moved to Newberry Township York County. They then moved to Conewago Township York County where Margaret died sometime between August 4th 1845 and January 15th 1846. ⁹ Since 1821 Margaret and John were having children about every two years. The one exception is between when Samuel Wrightstone was born in 1838 and Margaret in 1843. From what I can tell Margaret was the last child born to John and Margaret, and Margaret may have died resulting from giving birth to another child in 1846.

Some family researchers have John marrying a person named Leah. This is based on the 1850 and 1860 census records. However, I can't locate any reference to this marriage, or the children living with a Leah Wrightstone in 1860. Based on research, this Leah is either Leah Sipe who after her husband Joseph Sipe died, married John, or it is the sister of John, Leah Wrightstone, who married Joseph Sipe. And after her husband Joseph died moved in her brother John and the census taker used John's surname to identify the other residence in the home. There is a source reference that indicates that George Sipe was the son of Joseph Sipe and Leah Wrightstone. This Leah was married to Joseph Seip (Sipe) ^{viii}, who died prior to 1845.

Leah was born about 1801 and Leah Wrightstone cannot be located after 1860. A number of children show up on the 1850 and 1860 census record who I believe are children belonging to Leah and her first husband Joseph Sipe. After checking, I believe Leah and Joseph had the following children: ¹⁰

- A. John Sipe who was born about 1838. Some researchers think this is a Wrightstone.
- B. George S. Sipe who was born May 5th 1837, and died April 8th 1907 while living in Conewago Township York County, Pennsylvania. George was a farmer and carpenter. George was buried April 10th 1907 at Bald Hill, near Newberrytown, York County. George married Catharine Billet who was born on December 25th 1838 to the parents of George Billet and Susan Palmer. Catherine died on October 6th 1925, probably in Jackson Township York County. She is buried at Bald Hill, Emey, Newberry Township, York County. Catherine's father George was born about 1814. Her mother Susan was born on May 25th 1813, and died on August 19th 1902. She is buried at the Ironville United Brethren Church Cemetery York County.
- C. Joseph Sipe who was born about 1842, but no Joseph Wrightstone can be located in any other record, except the 1860 census record.

There were civil charges of assault and battery brought against John, which happened after Margaret died. Because John's son John lived with Elizabeth Hart in 1851 Fairview Township York County, I believe this record must be of the father John. "...1851 November Court Session - County vs. John Wrightstone - Indictment assault and battery - true bill fined November 21st 1851. Tuesday defendant & Francis Werly as security \$200 for appearances of defendants at January Session 1/5/52 to answerJohn Baker, Wm Eichiltz, Susanna Seip - Tuesday November 4 1851 - Each in \$100.00..." ¹¹

"... 1852 January Court Session - Tried January 8th 1852. The attached January 1852 Court Docket for the 8th shows Conewago, John Wrightstone...." ¹²

^{viii} Descendants of Kraft Billet, 1751 immigrant, settled Hellam Twp., York Co., Pa (Compiled by Donald F. Billet, co-author of "Billet and Related Families of York, Lancaster and Dauphin Counties, Pennsylvania 1751-1997," Gateway Press, Inc., 1998, Baltimore

Relationship Chart

Half brother or half sister: A half sibling (half brother or half sister) is a sibling with one shared biological or adoptive parent. A half sibling that shares the same mother (but different fathers) is known as a uterine sibling, whereas one that shares the same father is known as an agnate sibling. In law, the term consanguine is used in place of agnate. Half siblings can have a wide variety of interpersonal relationships, from a bond as close as any full siblings, to total strangers.

Step sister or step brother: A stepsibling (stepbrother or stepsister) is a sibling with whom a person bears no blood or equivalent adoptive relation, and is related by the marriage or relationship of one parent of the person to one parent of the sibling.

The chart below helps explain cousin relationships. The closest relationship prevails - note that cousinship is not calculated between individuals when one is descended from the other, for example, two individuals are not called cousins if they are any degree of grandparent, parent and child. Also cousinship is not calculated between individuals of any degree of aunt/uncle and nephew/niece relationship to each other.

If one person's →		<u>Grandparent</u>	Great grandparent	Great great grandparent	Great great great grandparent	Great great great great grandparent	Great great great great great grandparent
is the other person's ↓	then they're ↘						
Grandparent	First cousins	First cousins once removed	First cousins twice removed	First cousins thrice removed	First cousins four times removed	First cousins five times removed	
Great grandparent	First cousins once removed	Second cousins	Second cousins once removed	Second cousins twice removed	Second cousins thrice removed	Second cousins four times removed	
Great great grandparent	First cousins twice removed	Second cousins once removed	Third cousins	Third cousins once removed	Third cousins twice removed	Third cousins thrice removed	
Great great great grandparent	First cousins thrice removed	Second cousins twice removed	Third cousins once removed	Fourth cousins	Fourth cousins once removed	Fourth cousins twice removed	
Great great great great grandparent	First cousins four times removed	Second cousins thrice removed	Third cousins twice removed	Fourth cousins once removed	Fifth cousins	Fifth cousins once removed	
Great great great great great grandparent	First cousins five times removed	Second cousins four times removed	Third cousins thrice removed	Fourth cousins twice removed	Fifth cousins once removed	Sixth cousins	

Bibliography

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1830 William Wrightstone Census: Fairview, York, Pennsylvania, Page 269; NARA Roll: M19-160; Family History Film: 0020634, Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 1880 United States Federal Census, Original data: 1830 U.S. Census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M19, 201 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration.

1830 John Wrightstone Census: Fairview, York, Pennsylvania, Page 261; NARA Roll: M19-160; Family History Film: 0020634, Family History Film: 0020634, Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 1880 United States Federal Census, Original data: 1830 U.S. Census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M19, 201 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration.

1840 John Wrightstone Census: Newberry, York, Pennsylvania; Roll: 194; Page: 502; Image: 402; Family History Library Film: 0020561; 1840 United States Federal Census, Provo, UT, USA; Original data: Sixth Census of the United States, 1840. (NARA microfilm publication M704, 580 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

1850 John Wrightstone Census: Conewago, York, Pennsylvania; Roll: M432_840; Page: 300B; Image: 382; 1850 United States Federal Census, Provo, UT, USA; Original data: Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M432, 1009 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

1860 Leah Wrightstone Census: Newberry, York, Pennsylvania; Roll: M653_1201; Page: 613; Image: 156; Family History Library Film: 805201; 1860 United States Federal Census, Provo, UT, USA; Original data: 1860 U.S. census, population schedule. NARA microfilm publication M653, 1,438 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

1880 William Wrightstone Census: Fairview, York, Pennsylvania; Roll T9_1205, Family History Film: 1255205; Page: 175.3000; Enumeration District: 1, Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 1880 United States Federal Census, 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.

End Notes

¹ Wrightstone Researchers:

- A. Bob Wrightstone, 139 Richland Road, Carlisle PA 17015 ~ Great-Great Grandson of John Wrightstone and Elizabeth Ann Wire ~ (Michael Wrightstone's brother)
- B. Boog Graham, 479 County Line Road, York Springs, PA 17372 ~ Great Grandson of Edwin and Hattie Wrightstone ~ Great-Great Grandson of Michael Wrightstone and Eliza Jane Kline
- C. Marie Zirilli, 17 Dorchester Road, Hummelstown, Pa 17036 ~ Great Granddaughter of Ida May Wrightstone, daughter of Michael Wrightstone and Eliza Jane Kline; Great-Great Granddaughter of Michael Wrightstone and Eliza Jane Kline
- D. Jay Wayne Wrightstone, 501 Viterra Court, Kissimmee Florida 34759 ~ Grandson of Frank M. Wrightstone and Edith E. Miller ~ (Frank is the older brother of Edwin) ~ Great-Grandson of Michael Wrightstone and Eliza Jane Kline
- E. Nancy Enders, 1420 Arcona Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 ~ Granddaughter of Frank M. Wrightstone and Edith E. Miller ~ (Frank is the older brother of Edwin)
- F. Pearl Wrightstone-Schaffer, Camp Hill PA 17011 ~ Daughter of Frank M. Wrightstone and Edith E. Miller ~ (Frank is the older brother of Edwin)

² John Wrightstone, Estate Records, Book BB, Page 50, York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17401

³ Book 3Q Page 174, March 26th 1840 – John Rankin, administrator of Michael Hart late of Fairview Township, yeoman, to Jacob Cocklin Jr. of Monaghan Township for \$245.30 21 acres 118 Perches in Monaghan Township. Michael Hart had a daughter Margaret, wife of John Rightstone. York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17401

⁴ Page 13, Miller-Hart Genealogical Family Tree, York County Heritage Trust Library and Archives, 250 East Market Street, York, PA. 17401

⁵ John Rightstone, Estate Record, Book AA, Page 379, York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17401

⁶ Federal Census, December 12, 1850, Page 295, Conewago Township, Ibid.

⁷ Calendar of Vital Records of the Counties of York and Adams, Register of Wills Office, York County Heritage Trust Library and Archives, 250 East Market Street, York, PA

⁸ August 4th 1860 Federal Census, Page 15, Conewago Township, Strinestown Post Office, York County, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington D.C.

⁹ York County Deeds, Book 3T, Pg 183, Book 3T, Pg 326, York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17401

¹⁰ June 15th 1860 Federal Census, Page 25, Newberry Township, Newberry Post Office, York County PA, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington D.C.

¹¹ John and Margaret Wrightstone Estate and Civil Records, York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17401

¹² Ibid.