

Chapter One

Arnold
and
Mary (Neigh)
Bitters



“This morning (October 5, 1776) the soldier Teigtmeyer from Goettingen died of scurvy. I had served him communion yesterday, and one could hardly stay by him for an hour, due to the terrible smell in the stuffy ship. He was sewn in a hammock, a song was sung and the word of the twentieth chapter of the Apostles, thirteenth verse struck me, 'And the sea surrendered her dead'; I do not believe a funeral service has ever before been based on this text, in my country. The body was lowered into the sea from the right side of the ship.”

We learn of the hardships suffered by the Hessian Soldiers who crossed the Atlantic to fight in the employ of the British in the American Revolution, from diaries written by some of the soldiers. Bruce E. Burgoyne translated many Hessian diaries and published “Enemy Views, The American Revolutionary War as recorded by the Hessian Participants”. This book is of particular interest as it is a compilation of diaries, letters and Regimental records from 34 different sources. Included is the diary of “Jacob Piel, a 2nd Lieutenant and the adjunct of the Hesse Cassel Von Lossberg Regiment. (Excerpts from this book are in Italics, and are used with permission)

We know from “Hessische Truppen im Amerikanischen Unabhanggkeitskrieg (Hetrina)” Hessian Troops in who remained in America, that Arnold Bitters was born about 1757/58 in Lohe, Germany and that he served in the Von Lossberg Regiment. April 1775 shows Arnold on leave, February 1777, his rank is servant. (Today according to the German City Locator “geo@genealogy.net” Lohe is part of Bad Oeynhausen and has a population of 1524).

The Hessian Soldiers did not join the British out of any sense of loyalty or belief in their cause. They were paid soldiers, escaping extreme poverty and lack of opportunity in their own county. *“In 1776 Hesse Cassel provided nineteen battalions of foot soldiers, one Jaeger Company and five artillery companies.”* A total of 16,992 soldiers were sent from Hesse Cassel between 1776 and 1782. Of those, 6500 did not return to Germany. It does not specify the number killed verses those who remained in America after the war.

The first division of the Hesse Cassel troops departed April 17, 1776 from Bremerlehe, after marching to the coast. Jacob Piel writes: *“This morning at eight thirty the entire fleet, which consisted of 48 ships, went under sail... The ship Union sailed so close to the side of the general's ship for two hours that it was possible to speak to people on the other ship. During this time the hautboists of the Lossberg Regiment played a continuous concert. Cheers and the thunder of cannons reverberated from all the ships.*

We don't know if 19 year old, Arnold was among this first division or if he came with a later contingent. We do know that Arnold was taken prisoner at the Battle of Trenton, December 26, 1776.

Shipboard conditions were described with horrific detail in the diaries of the soldiers: "Our bunks were so tightly arranged that we had to lay pressed against one another and no one could move, let alone turn over. In general there was space for a board, which was five feet long and six feet wide. When we were tired of lying on one side in the narrow holder, the senior, or one in command, gave a signal so that all could turn onto the other side at the same time, and without this, since we were so closely packed, we often ended up with our heads where our feet had been, or because of the violent movement of the ship, fell upon one another, or as so often happened, fell out of bed..."

"Six men received four pounds of ships bread daily, or the so called biscuits, which were made without salt and baked so hard that it was necessary to beat them against a stone with a stick, or to soak them for a prolonged period in water, before eating. This bread was made from a bad wheat meal, hard, without salt, baked a half finger stick and round, about the size of a bottom of a coffee cup, in order that it would not mold..."

"Also, during the week we were given, alternately, peas and oatmeal, and each week we received on two days boiled pork and twice salted beef. Of the first, six men received four pounds and of the other, eight pounds. These were placed daily, when not stormy, in a very large copper kettle like a pot with a secure top, then fully cooked over a coal fire and rationed to us."

"In lieu of meat, three times a week, butter and cheese were issued, but not enough of the last to worry about, which provided a man, when I may make the comparison, the support of a fluid, at first adequate, but later somewhat insufficient for a young person. Something now of the brandy wine bond, which was such a small portion as not to suffice during a twenty four hour period, so some traded their bread, which was barely half a pound per day, with the young people who were not accustomed to brandy, but who had more appetite for the first, and in this manner each made his own way through the unpleasant and difficulty journey..."

"To say something of the ever prevalent vermin, I can assure you in truth, that whoever had the most white shirts, also caught the most lice. Although a daily delousing parade was held, because of the length of the voyage, the vermin were so prevalent among us that even the officer needed to feel no shame to pluck a louse from his sleeve and throw it overboard. The cause of these unpleasant companions on our ship resulted from most of the soldiers being people brought together from many regions by slick recruiters. The drafts were without a shirt to their name, but were given two issue shirts which were not enough to prevent a strong visit of lice."

I venture to say that not many of us today would be willing to participate in that voyage. Many soldiers did not survive the sickness, accidents and even dueling that daimed many lives on the journey. Others upon arrival were taken straight to the military hospital for treatment, so ill that they had to be tied to chairs and lowered over the sides of their ship, too weak to stand.

Those who arrived in America “*encountered blacks, mostly slaves, and red Indians for the first time, and found people living in a vast area where land was available almost for the taking, with very little taxation. The Germans could not understand why anyone would rebel against the ruler God had placed over them and engage in a war so destructive of their property and pleasant living conditions.*”

Upon arrival in New York Harbor one soldier wrote “*Already from a distance we could perceive the radiance of freedom which the inhabitants of this new world had previously enjoyed and of which they were now to be robbed by the oppression of war, against these German slaves. Every plantation, every farm, seemed a shelter in a fool's paradise; the good harmony between neighbors, where a beggar was never seen on the street and certainly never encountered. All this made us think it to be a blessed land when compared to Germany.*”

These words seemed to reverberate through the early weeks and months of the war, as it appeared that the British aided by the Germans might indeed rob the Americans of the radiance of freedom. Resounding defeats at the Battle of Long Island, August 27, 1776 and the Battle of White Plains, October 28, 1776 left the American Army in shambles. Much of the army was fleeing across the Jersey plains, while hundreds of men were leaving for their homes, believing the cause was lost. As if that wasn't bad enough, some three thousand of the leading Jersey farmers decided to accept Howe's latest offer and to swear allegiance to the Crown in exchange for amnesty.

On December 26th, Washington's Army crossed the Delaware and surprised the British at Trenton. Christmas evening Twenty Four Hundred men faithfully followed George Washington through the dead of night, in the bitter cold with snow falling as they struggled against the ice floes and rapid current to cross the Delaware into New Jersey, beneath the overcast sky. Cannons and baggage slowed the progress through the extreme darkness. The men arrived at Mackonkey's Ferry nine miles above Trenton and began the treacherous march toward victory. By this time, the snow had turned to rain and hail creating miserable conditions as the road turned to muck and mud. At 8:00 A.M. the American Army attacked...

An eyewitness from Washington's Staff wrote the following account of the battle that represented the first real American victory.

New Town, Pa., Dec. 22, 1776

Things have been going against us since last August, when we were forced to give up Long Island, losing 3000 men and a great amount of supplies. In October we were forced to evacuate New York and cross the Hudson into New Jersey. We reached Trenton Dec. 2. It was prudent forethought on the part of General Washington to send General [William] Maxwell ahead to secure all the boats on the Delaware River and have them at Trenton upon our arrival. If it had not been done we should have been in a bad fix with [British Army Lieutenant General Charles] Cornwallis at our heels. As it was the Hessians under Count [Carl von] Donop and Colonel [Johann] Rall arrived in that village in season to fire a few shots at the last boat. According to last accounts General [William] Howe [the British Commander in Chief] and General Cornwallis have gone to New York leaving General [Sir James] Grant with a few hundred English troops at Princeton, Colonel Rall with 1500 Hessians at Trenton and Count Donop with 2000 at

Bordentown, ten miles down the river from Trenton.

Washington's headquarters are here in this little village of New Town, back from the river northwest of Trenton. General [Nathaniel] Greene and General [John] Sullivan, with their divisions, numbering 2500 men and sixteen cannon, are ten miles up stream at McConkey's Ferry. A portion of the boats are there. General [James] Ewing, with 2000 men, is on this side of the river a little below Trenton, and General [John] Cadwallader and General [Israel] Putnam are at Bristol, ten miles further down, with as many more.

I rode along the river yesterday morning and could see the Hessians in Trenton. It is a pretty village, containing about 130 houses and a Presbyterian meeting house. A stone bridge spans the Assunpink creek on the road leading to Bordentown. There are apple orchards and gardens. Rall has his own regiment and Knyphausen a few dragoons and fifty riflemen. The Hessians call them Yagers. He has six cannon. Knyphausen has two of them, two stand in front of Rall's headquarters, and two up by the Pennington road. A scout just in says that General Howe has issued a proclamation, offering pardon to everybody in New Jersey who will lay down their arms and take the oath of allegiance. He says that Howe and Cornwallis are well satisfied with what they have accomplished. Cornwallis is going to England to tell the King that the rebellion is about over. Howe is going to have a good time in New York attending dinner parties. For what I see I am quite certain Washington intends to make some movement soon. He keeps his own counsel, but is very much determined.

Dec. 23 Orders have been issued to cook rations for three days. Washington has just given the counter sign, "Victory or Death." He has written a letter to General Caldwellader at Bristol, which he has entrusted to me to copy. He intends to cross the river, make a ten mile march to Trenton, and attack Rall just before daybreak. Ewing is to cross and seize the bridge crossing the Assunpink. Putnam and Cadwallader are to cross and make a feint of attacking Donop so that he can not hasten to Rall's assistance.

Dec. 24 A scout just in says that the Hessians have a picket on the Pennington road half a mile out from Trenton, and another at [Brigadier General of the New Jersey militia Philemon] Dickenson's house, on the river road.

Dec. 25 Christmas morning. They make a great deal of Christmas in Germany, and no doubt the Hessians will drink a great deal of beer and have a dance to night. They will be sleepy tomorrow morning. Washington will set the tune for them about daybreak. The rations are cooked. New flints and ammunition have been distributed. Colonel [John] Glover's fishermen from Marblehead, Mass., are to manage the boats just as they did in the retreat from Long Island.

Christmas, 6 p.m. The regiments have had their evening parade, but instead of returning to their quarters are marching toward the ferry. It is fearfully cold and raw and a snow storm is setting in. The wind is northeast and beats in the faces of the men. It will be a terrible night for the soldiers who have no shoes. Some of them have tied old rags around their feet; others are barefoot, but I have not heard a man complain. They are ready to suffer any hardship and die rather than give up their liberty. I have just copied the order for marching. Both divisions are to go from the ferry to Bear Tavern, two miles. They will separate there; Washington will accompany Greene's division with a part of the artillery down the Pennington Road; Sullivan and the rest of the artillery will take the river road.

Dec. 26, 3 a.m. I am writing in the ferry house. The troops are all over, and the boats have gone back for the artillery. We are three hours behind the set time. Glover's men have had a hard time to force the boats through the floating ice with the snow drifting in their faces. I never had seen Washington so determined as he is now. He stands on the bank of the river, wrapped in his cloak, superintending the landing of his troops. He is calm and collected, but very determined. The storm is changing to sleet, and cuts like a knife. The last cannon is being landed, and we are ready to mount our horses.

Dec. 26, Noon It was nearly 4 o'clock, when we started. The two divisions divided at Bear Tavern.

At Birmingham, three and a half miles south of the tavern, a man came with a message from General Sullivan that the storm was wetting the muskets and rendering them unfit for service. "Tell General Sullivan," said Washington, "to use the bayonet. I am resolved to take Trenton."

It was broad daylight when we came to a house where a man was chopping wood. He was very much surprised when he saw us. "Can you tell me where the Hessian picket is?" Washington asked. The man hesitated, but I said, "You need not be frightened, it is General Washington who asks the question." His face brightened and he pointed toward the house of Mr. Howell.

It was just 8 o'clock. Looking down the road I saw a Hessian running out from the house. He yelled in Dutch [German] and swung his arms. Three or four others came out with their guns. Two of them fired at us, but the bullets whistled over our heads. Some of General [Adam] Stephen's men rushed forward and captured two. The other took to their heels, running toward Mr. [Alexander] Calhoun's house, where the picket guard was stationed, about twenty men under Captain Altenbrockum. They came running out of the house. The Captain flourished his sword and tried to form his men. Some of them fired at us, others ran toward the village. The next moment we heard drums beat and a bugle sound, and then from the west came the boom of a cannon. General Washington's face lighted up instantly, for he knew that it was one of Sullivan's guns. We could see a great commotion down toward the meeting house, men running here and there, officers swinging their swords, artillerymen harnessing their horses. Captain [Thomas] Forrest unlimbered his guns. Washington gave the order to advance, and rushed on the junction of King and Queen streets. Forrest wheeled six of his cannon into position to sweep both streets. The riflemen under Colonel [Edward] Hand and [Charles] Scott's and [Robert] Lawson's battalions went upon the run through the fields on the left just ready to open fire with two of their cannon when Captain [William] Washington and Lieutenant [James] Monroe with their men rushed forward and captured them. We saw Rall come riding up the street from his headquarters, which were at Stacy Potts' house. We could hear him shouting in Dutch, "My brave soldiers, advance." His men were frightened and confused, for our men were firing upon them from fences and houses and they were falling fast. Instead of advancing they ran into an apple orchard. The officers tried to rally them, but our men kept advancing and picking off the officers. It was not long before Rall tumbled from his horse and his soldiers threw down their guns and gave themselves up as prisoners.

While this was taking place on the Pennington road, Colonel John Stark, from New Hampshire, in the advance on the river road was driving Knyphausen's men pell mell through the town. Sullivan sent a portion of his troops under [Brigadier General Arthur] St. Clair to seize the bridge and cut off the retreat of the Hessians toward Bordentown. Sullivan's men shot the artillery

horses and captured two cannon attached to Knyphausen's regiment.

Dec.26, 3 p.m. . . . We have taken nearly 1000 prisoners, six cannon, more than 1000 muskets, twelve drums, and four colors. About forty Hessians were killed or wounded. Our loss is only two killed and three wounded. . . . I have just been with General Washington and Greene to see Rall. He will not live through the night. He asked that his men might be kindly treated. Washington promised that he would see they were well cared for.

Dec. 27. 1776. Here we are back in our camp with the prisoners and trophies. Washington is keeping his promise; the soldiers are in the New Town Meeting house and other buildings. He has just given directions for tomorrow's dinner. All the captured Hessian officers are to dine with him. He bears the Hessians no malice, but says they have been sold by their Grand Duke to King George and sent to America, when if they could have their own way they would be peaceably living in their own country.

It is a glorious victory. It will rejoice the hearts of our friends everywhere and give new life to our hitherto waning fortunes. Washington has baffled the enemy in his retreat from New York. He has pounced upon the Hessians like an eagle upon a hen and is safe once more on this side of the river. If he does nothing more he will live in history as a great military commander.

Reprinted from *The Battles of Trenton and Princeton*, by William S. Styker (1898)

Jacob Piel writes of the Battle of Trenton in his diary: *"Between six and seven o'clock this morning we were formally attacked by a corps of 6,000 to 7,000 men under General Washington. Our outposts soon found it necessary to retreat and we barely had time to take up our weapons before we lost many of our people in the city due to the small arms and cannon fire of the enemy. We were surrounded on all sides but defended ourselves for two full hours, until the Knyphausen Regiment was cut off from us, our weapons because of the rain and snow, could no longer be fired; and the rebels fired on us from all the houses. There remained no other choice for us but to surrender. The Lossberg Regiment lost about seventy men, dead and wounded, in this engagement. We had only Colonel Rall to thank for our complete misfortune. It never struck him that the rebels might attack us, and therefore he had made no preparations against an attack. I must concede that on the whole we had a poor opinion of the rebels, who previously had never successfully opposed us. Our Brigadier was too proud to retreat one step from such an enemy, as from the start, there was no other choice for us but to retreat.*

The Battle of Trenton Prisoner List published in *The Journal of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association, Inc*, Volume 3, No 1, 1985, tells us that Arnold Bitters was taken prisoner in that historic battle.

"Bitter, Arnold Regiment Von Lossberg, Rank Servant (Bedienter) taken to Dumfries, Virginia"

The introduction reports, "The transcription of the Trenton Prisoner list was taken from a copy located in the Library of Congress. The original of the list is located in the Archives in Marburg and, while accessible to researchers, it is not available for photocopying. The list presents a wealth of information on the prisoners, having been prepared by the Germans for a consolidated report on the prisoners taken as a result of the Battle. It is dated 27 February 1777, and was assembled from company and/or regiment reports by the Hessian Staff at headquarters in New York. In summary, it lists over 1000 Hessians, and states the disposition of nearly every soldier

who was captured, died during the Battle, or died between the Battle and 26 February, 1778, the date the lists were compiled.”

“The full inscription on the box containing these records in the Library of Congress is as follows: Box 2407 392; OWS 1248; Prussisches Staatsarchiv Marburg; Wilhelmshoer Kriegsakten; No. CXIX; Part II; Pages 400 746; rec. June 27, 1929.”

Non Commissioned Officers and Privates were taken to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Originally, Congress ordered the Officers held at Baltimore and they set out for that place, under the escort of Captain Farmer, a German.

Jacob Piel again in his diary, provides us with insight into the plight of the Hessian prisoners.

“Charlestown in Maryland, where we took our noon meal today, is a terrible place... We arrived toward evening on the Susquehanna, which at this point is very wide, and we all entered the ferry house, where, because the river was frozen over, the next morning we saw that it would be necessary to spend two miserable nights. The rumor quickly spread that the captured Hessian Officers were in the Ferry House. This drew a lot of unpleasant visitors to us. There was no gentleman in the entire region who did not come riding to see the Hessians, about whom he had heard so many stories. They had come to see strange animals and found to their disgust that we looked like human beings. “

“It seemed comical, but it is true, that they had formed such an idea of the Hessians, but in the beginning they would not believe our words that we were really Hessians.

In true military fashion, as soon as the Hessian Prisoners arrived in Baltimore, Congress changed their minds and sent them to Dumfries, Virginia. Deciding the prisoners were not secure enough in Dumfries, Congress ordered them moved to Winchester, Virginia, eighty miles farther inland.

The Prisoners of War were held from December 26, 1776 to February 26, 1778, when all captured officers were ordered to assemble at Lancaster, Pennsylvania. A prisoner exchange had been worked out with the British.

At this point, we have no record of Arnold Bitter until 1792. We have not located him on the 1790 Census. Possibly he was a boarder in someone else's household. I suspect that he was in Lower Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania at that time.

June 27, 1792 Arnold purchased 25 Acres of land, which sold for Fifty shillings per hundred acres, in Lower Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, adjacent to lands owned by Henry Jacoby, Michael Nigh, Moses Weaver and others. Warrant number 480.

A survey completed April 12, 1793 describes 32 Acres. Survey Book C Number 14 page 59. A hand drawn map shows Arnold's property surrounded by the property owned by Henry Jacoby, Michael Nigh and Moses Weaver.

The Patent was filed May 23, 1798. Patent Book volume P number 32 page 607. For the Sum of

“Four Shillings Six Pence lawful money paid by him into the said office (Receiver General's Office, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania) there is granted by the said Commonwealth unto said Arnold Bitter a certain Tract of Land called Mont Joy situate in Lower Mount Bethel Township Northampton County beginning at a stone thence by land of Moses Weaver North twenty three degrees west or half West fifty three perches to a stone North fourteen degrees east fifty four perches and a half to a stone thence by land of Michael Nye South seventy three degrees and a half East two perches to a stone North eighty four degrees and a half East eighty five perches to a stone North forty six degrees and a half East twenty one perches to a stone and thence by land of Henry Jacobi South forty seven degrees West eighty nine perches to the beginning, containing Thirty Two Acres and allowance of six per cent, for roads, etc (which said tract was surveyed in pursuance of a Warrant dated 27 June 1792 granted to the said Arnold Bitter with the appurtenances: To have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land with the appurtenances unto the said Arnold Bitter and his heirs, to the use of him the said Arnold Bitter his heirs and assigns for ever _____ free and dear of all restrictions and reservations as to Mines, Royalities, Quit rents, or otherwise excepting and referring only the fifth part of all gold and silver ore, for the use of this Commonwealth, to be delivered at the pitts mouth, clear of all charges. In Witness whereof Thomas Mifflin, Governor of the said Commonwealth.

These records are located at the Pennsylvania State Archives, 350 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120 0090.

How ironic, that after making a perilous journey by sea, suffering the defeat of his army and being held prisoner of war, all in an attempt to prevent American freedom. Arnold found himself, quite possibly for the first time in his life, at age 35, the owner of a fine piece of property. Free and clear to do with as he pleased.

I believe that this was the only time in history that large numbers of an invading Army remained to settle in a country, where they had been soundly defeated.

I can imagine Arnold standing atop a hill, overlooking his new property. Perhaps he felt a hint of sadness, for the family left behind in Germany. Feel the gentle spring breeze blowing through his hair, the warmth of the sun on his face as his heart swelled with pride.

Fine trees such as Oak, Hickory, Maple and Black Walnut were plentiful and would make a fine cabin. Game was abundant and the soil rich, assuring enough to eat.

It was at this point I believe, that Arnold understood why the American People “*would rebel against the ruler God had placed over them and engage in a war so destructive of their property and pleasant living conditions.*”

The location of Arnold's land is significant, as Arnold chose for his bride, Mary Neigh.

Mary Neigh Bitter was born November 11, 1772, in Lower Mount Bethel Twp, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. She was the daughter of John Michael Neigh and Margriet Van Etten.

Arnold and Mary were the parents of 4 children:

Rebecca born January 23, 1792

John born July 05, 1794
William born May 04, 1797
Esther born January 25, 1801

The Arnold Bitter family is found on the 1800 Census for Lower Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. An adult male and female with 3 children, 2 male and one female appear on the census. Esther of course, was not born until 1801.

We don't know the exact date of Arnold's death or where he was buried. We do know that Letters of Administration were issued May 23, 1803 to Mary Bitter, widow and relic of Arnold Bitter. Mary's signature appears on the Estate Records, a careful scrawl. I suspect that signing her name was about the extent of her ability to write, as it is not the flowing signature of someone comfortable with a pen, but appears to have taken a bit of concentration. Estate #2198 can be obtained from the Register of Wills, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Northampton

County Government Center, 669 Washington Street, Easton Pennsylvania 18042 7485

At age 31, Mary finds herself widowed with 4 children under the age of 14. She is able to settle the estate of her deceased husband, after a bond was posted in the amount of Three Hundred Pounds, by her brother Andrew Neigh, and a neighbor Henry Weaver.

Guardianship of her children is another matter entirely! As was customary at the time, a male guardian was needed for young children. Andrew Neigh is named Guardian of the minor children of Arnold and Mary. This record can be located from the Clerk of Orphans Court, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Northampton County Government Center, 669 Washington Street, Easton Pennsylvania 18042 7485



Photo Labeled "Arnold and Mary Bitters"

It is highly likely that this photo is mis-identified. Arnold died in 1803 before photos were invented. It is possible that this is actually an early photo of John Bitters and his wife Sarah Ann Major

This photo was reproduced from a Daguerotype by Albert Wilson Bitters in the 1930's as documented by a letter written by Albert.

Photo from the collection of the Fulton County Historical Society - Donated after the death of Virginia Dillon Ossa (Grand daughter of Albert Wilson Bitters)

Rochester, Indiana, October 16, 1931.

Mr. Harold H. Gearinger,
125 Williams Street,
Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania.

Dear Cousin (Remote): I have your letter of 11th inst. at hand, and take pleasure in answering the same to the best of my ability. Your great-grandmother, Hettie Louisa Bitters-Morris, was my own aunt, my father's sister, who died at Bloomsburg, Pa., December 22, 1854, almost five years before I was born, at Peru, Indiana, August 19, 1859, hence I was 72 years of age last 19th of August. I have heard my father and grandfather John Bitters speak of Aunt Hettie many times when I was just a little boy.

Now, I am going to give you a surprise, which I feel will be quite agreeable for you. After I received your first letter I at once called at the home of my cousin, Martin Morris Bitters, who lives diagonally across the street from my home. To him I read your letter, after which we discussed the Bitters ancestry to some extent. Mart told me that his brother, Calvin Kuhn Bitters, who deceased only last February, had a picture of our great-grandfather and great-grandmother, Arnold and Mary Bitters. Unfortunately we have no data of their births, marriage or deaths. Well, I next went to the C. K. Bitters home and asked the loan of that picture. It is an old Daguerreotype which has been in our relationship for approximately one hundred years or more. After the demise of Cousin Cal, his oldest brother, Dr. Franklin Pierce Bitters, of Indianapolis, who came to attend the funeral, laid claim to that old picture as a right of the oldest living of their family, so he took the old relic with him to Indianapolis. That same day I addressed a letter to Dr. Bitters, requesting the loan of the picture in order that I could have photographic copies made of it, with the intention of mailing one to you. Well, I received it by return mail and took it to our photographer and had a few prints made. This, then, is your surprise, to have a picture of your great-great-great-grandfather and great-great-great-grandmother Arnold and Mary Bitters. That is something you can well be proud of.

Arnold Bitters was a Hessian soldier from Germany, hired by the King of England to fight against the Colonists in the Revolutionary war. Arnold was on board a British battle ship and after it came to anchor in Boston harbor, he jumped overboard at midnight, swam ashore and joined George Washington's army. He was at the Siege of Yorktown and witnessed the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. In this matter I must be frank with you that we have no authentic record of this story other than that it is a family tradition, Arnold Bitters having thus informed his ~~son~~ son (my grandfather John Bitters), who recounted the same to my father and brothers, and by them told as a heritage worthy of the patriotic pride of the generation of the Bitters family at this time. I am going to send one of these photos to my daughter, Mrs. Margaret Rose Bitters-Dillon, at Johnson City, Tennessee. She has two children, John A. and Virginia A. Dillon.

Yours sincerely,
[Signature]

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In connection with data of Revolutionary war soldiers, will here state that my wife, Mrs. Emma Evelyn Bitters, is a great-grandchild of a Revolutionary war soldier, John Johnson, whose remains repose in Shelton cemetery, four miles south of Rochester. Of his war record we have ample proof that he served and witnessed the surrender, and on the authenticity of data from the U. S. War Department, my wife is a member of Manitou Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, Rochester, Indiana.

When it comes to family geneology, I herewith wish to give you the lineage of my two grandchildren John Allen and Virginia Alyce Dillon, Johnson City, Tennessee, in an absolutely unbroken line back to eighth grandfather, as follows:

John A and born June 18, 1920,
Virginia A Dillon, born Feb. 7, 1924, son and daughter of
Margaret Rose Bitters-Dillon, born April 9, 1866, daughter of
Emma E. Shelton-Bitters, born Oct. 19, 1862, daughter of
Martha Ann League-Shelton, born Sept. 25, 1826, daughter of
Margaret Carr-League, born March 2, 1798, daughter of
~~John Carr, born March 16, 1771, son of
John Carr, born (date lost), 1744, son of
Lorent Carr, born Nov. 29, 1716, son of
Andrew Carr, born June 14, 1685, son of
John Carr, born Nov. 17, 1657.~~

This is a record of 274 years. Just give it to you as a matter of interest to me, not that it will be of any benefit to you.

B I T T E R S G E N E O L O G Y .

1--Arnold and Mary Bitters, born in Prussia, Germany (date unknown).

Their children were as follows:

Rebecca, born Jan. 23, 1792, Northampton County, Penn.;
John, " July 5, 1794, " " "
William, " May 4, 1797, " " "
Esther, " Jan. 25, 1801, " " "

3--John Bitters, son of Arnold and Mary Bitters, born in Northampton County, Penn., July 5, 1794; married Sarah Ann Major, June 24, 1820; Northampton County, Penn., by Rev. B. I. Lowe; died March 14, 1891, at Akron, Indiana.

Sarah Ann Major, born Jan. 25, 1804, Northampton County, Penn., died March 21, 1891, at Rochester, Indiana.

Their Children were as follows:

Lenuel Nye, born Jan. 23, 1821, Northampton Co., Pa.
Catharine Marie, born July 21, 1822, " " "
Nettie Louisa, born Sept. 23, 1823, Northampton Co., Pa., died Dec. 22, 1854.
William, born Aug. 4, 1825, Northampton Co., Pa.
Margaret Ann, born Sept. 1, 1827, Northampton Co., Pa.
Rebecca, born Feb. 13, 1829, " " "
John Deichman, Jan. 5, 1834, " " "