The Family of

VALENTINE RITTER -- ANNA SUSANNA BENSINGER

Preamble:- John Ritter, b--- d-1773-5, (Wife's name and lineage unknown; also exact number of children in family unknown) was of noble birth, a citizen of prominence in the Province of Prussia, Germany, in which he resided and owned considerable real estate. He had several sons all of whom save Valentine, the youngest, he gave to the King, Frederick the Great, for service in the army.

VALENTINE RITTER was born July 14, 1749, in Alsace, in the Province of Prussia, Germany. In his youth, while pursuing his studies he saw that he could not realize his aims and ideals in his home land under the despotism of Frederick the Great and decided to emigrate to America before the completion of his education. He thus hoped to avoid conscription and involuntary service in the army. Valentine, provided with ample funds (by his father) made his escape down the Rhine Valley to Holland and embarked on a sailing vessel at Rotterdam. After a voyage of six weeks of bad weather he arrived in America in the year 1773 and located among the Germans who had previously settled in Chester, Berks and Schuylkill Counties in the eastern part of Pennsylvania. In this place he was employed for approximately twenty years as a teacher of select schools in most of which the instruction was in German. He had remarkable skill as a penman. (Notably, two of his descendants, Prof. J. C. Miller, his great grandson, and Prof. H. W. Flickinger, his grandson, were noted penmen and teachers of penmanship).

Valentine Ritter at the age of 38 (1787) was married to Anna Susanna Bensinger (b July 17, 1771) in Berks County, Pennsylvania. They located near her home at McKeansburg in Schuylkill County and later in Brunswick Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. In 1796 after the birth of three children, DANIEL, MARY and JOHN, his health becoming impaired, he bought and moved to the farm in Perry County located along the road from Ickesburg,to Loysville, Pennsylvania. The remaining five children of his family were born at this place. Here he died at the age of 71 on April 4, 1820. He is buried in the Old Town Cemetery at Loysville, Pa. His wife lived to the unusual age of 96 and is buried at the same place. (d June 14, 1868)

The children of VALENTINE RITTER are:

DANIEL	1791-1871	
MARY	1793-1880	---- No further record found
JOHN	1794-18--	
JACOB	1791-1874	
CATHERINE	1800-1873	---- No further record found
MARGARET	1804-1870	
GEORGE	1810-1893	
ELIZABETH	1814-1892	---- No further record found

MEMO:

All the eight children of Valentine Ritter seemed, from the meager records available, to live and rear their families in the vicinity of Loysville, Pennsylvania. Several of them lived around Carlisle, Penna. or as far west of there as the present location of Shippensburg, Penna. Their business seemed to be farming. Little is known as to the whereabouts of the descendants marked "No further record found" or to what portion of the country they migrated, if they did so do.

The above data was obtained principally from old family Bibles, inscriptions on tombstones in cemeteries in and around Loysville, Penna., and a considerable amount from Prof. Flickinger's volume on the Flickinger family tree. With profuse apologies, a few errors were found in the latter and corrected by the late Dr. Benjamin Ritter, of McCoysville, Pa.

The writer's interest was principally in the oldest son of Valentine Ritter and his wife, Anna Susanna Bensinger, that is the Daniel Ritter 1791-1871. Daniel and his wife, Barbara Stover, 1789-1859, had seven children:

1. Jacob Ritter, 1814-1841 (No record of marriage)
2. Daniel Ritter, 1821-1893, married Elizabeth Tressler - died 1892 (Had 7 children, one of whom was Dr. Benjamin Ritter).
* 3. John Stover Ritter, 7/18/1823-5/13/1893, married Elizabeth Billman 2/5/1825-3/17/1899, and they had 3 children. One was Grand father George Billman Ritter, 10/21/1846-3/8/1909, who married Grandmother Mary Ellner Miller, 5/30/1848-8/15/1894.
4. Jonathan Ritter, 1825-1857 (Not married)
5. George Ritter, 1828-1845 (Not married - died at age 17)
6. Lydia Ritter -- -- (married George Garber - No further record)
7. Catherine Ritter -- -- (married Jonathan Minich - No further record)

* The other two children of John Stover Ritter were Sarah Ritter, who married John A. NewComber (2 children), and Grand Uncle, Daniel Franklin Pierce Ritter, who married Alice Elizabeth Minich. They had 7 children.

PAUL E. RITTER (Writer)

3rd son: John Stover Ritter, 1823-1893, married Elizabeth Billman (Had 3 children)

1 son: George Billman Ritter, 10/21/1846-3/8/1909, married Ellner Miller, 5/30/1848-8/15/1894 (Had 6 children:

1. John Edwin Ritter, 12/15/1868-2/4/1925,
2. Frank William Ritter
3. Orrie Arthur Ritter
4. George Harry Ritter
5. Elizabeth Belle Ritter
6. Edith

1 son: John Edwin Ritter 12/15/1868-2/4/1925, married Amanda Estella Dum, 9/14/1872-1/24/1961 (Had 7 children):

(a) Benjamin Hooke Ritter, 12/15/1889-12/26/1935
(b) Mary Estella Ritter, 5/20/1892
(c) Beulah Ruth Ritter, 8/9/1896
(d) John William Ritter, 3/6/1898
(e) Anna Belle Ritter, 11/4/1899
(f) Emma Grace Ritter, 11/4/1899-11/27/1899
(g) Mildred Almeda Ritter, 6/8/1906

1 daughter: Anna Belle Ritter, 11/4/1899, married Ray Benjamin Lackey, b. 4/27/189 , d. 9/26/51 (Had 3 children):

1. Lois Ann Lackey, 9/10/1927, married William K. Hutchinson, II, b. 9/2/1926; (Had 3 children):
[redacted]
Steven James Hutchinson, b. 9/7/1955
[redacted]

2. Harry Alfred Lackey, II, b. 8/1/1930, d/ 5/18/1960, married Betty Belle McCarthy, b. 10/4/19 , (Had 4 children:
[redacted]
Harry A. Lackey, III, b. 1/29/57, d. 5/17/57
[redacted]

3. James Benjamin Lackey, b. 2/1/1935, married Sarah Ann Brown, b. , (2 children):
[redacted]

1 son: John Edwin Ritter 12/15/1868-2/4/1925, married Amanda Estella Dum, 9/14/1872-1/24/1961 (Had 7 children): 3

Addendum 1970

(a) Benjamin Hooke Ritter, 12/15/1889-12/26/1935
(b) Mary Estella Ritter, 5/20/1892 – Aunt MARY STILL LIVING in Gettysburg
(c) Beulah Ruth Ritter, 8/9/1896 – 2-23-1970
(d) John William Ritter, 3/6/1898 – STILL LIVING in CONN.
(e) Anna Belle Ritter, 11/4/1899 – STILL LIVING IN CAL.
(f) Emma Grace Ritter, 11/4/1899-11/27/1899
(g) Mildred Almeda Ritter, 6/8/1906 – STILL LIVING IN CARLISLE

1 daughter: MARY ESTELLA RITTER, 5/20/1892, married John Clarence Shover, b. 6/30/1894, d. 9/14/1953. (Had 1 child):

Pauline Ruth Shover, b. 8/6/1915, married John F. Ebersole, b. ~~8/31/19~~ 7/31/15 (Had 1 child):

John Edward Ebersole, b. 10/10/1941, Married Elaine