From The Brant Genealogy of Somerset County, Pennsylvania published 1932.Record of the John Brandt Family.
**John and Ann Maria Brandt** of whose lives and the lives of their descendants the following pages contain a brief chronological account, were born in Amsterdam, Holland in the year 1731. The date of their emigration from Holland is not known. The first that we know of them we find them living on a fertile farm on the western base of the Laurel Ridge, about a mile or two south of Ligonier, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. The farm of 300 acres on which he lived came to him by warrant May 14, 1773. This record may be found in the Pennsylvania Archives, Third Series, Vol. 26, page 393.
Bible records state that the family was living in Donegal Township. That the reader may not be confused by this reference or similar references hereafter it should be said that Donegal Township was later divided into three townships so that the Brandt family's residence fell into the newly formed township named Ligonier.
From this family sprang a very large relationship which gave very perceptible coloring to the community life. To this day there is a schoolhouse known as; “The Brant Schoolhouse” and a burying ground known as “The Brant Cemetery.” The burying ground is not used much now and shows evidences of neglect. Several generations of Brants and Wellers from whom the Brants of Somerset County are descended are buried there.
At the time when the Brandt family settled in Westmoreland County the country was still quite new and heavily timbered. A few Indians still lingered here and there causing anxiety to the settlers. Tradition has it that one day while Mr. Brandt was about the home he spied an Indian in his bake oven. In those early days before stoves were invented and when houses contained fireplaces instead, ovens were constructed outside of the houses. Such an oven consisted of a solid base of stone about eight or ten feet square and about two feet high. On this base a hollow, half sphere of bricks or other material was built. At one side an iron door about fifteen inches square was placed making an opening into the oven. Into that door the Indian crawled concealing himself until such a time as he might conveniently carry out his purpose. Before that time came, however, Mr. Brandt spied the Indian. Frightened by his presence in such an unexpected place he suspected that there might be trouble and felt it his duty to make the first move. Being without a weapon of defense Mr. Brandt seized a rail that lay near at hand and with that clumsy instrument he began to punish the intruder. This he kept up until he had killed the Indian. Thus the hands of our forefathers were stained with human blood. No doubt he had justified himself as acting in self-defense for the preservation of his family and himself. In those days of constant irritation between the whites and the Indians, the Indian was not thought of as much more than an animal so that the slaying of an Indian was not regarded as the crime it would be considered in the sober perspective of history. After finding his home in the new world Mr. Brandt settled for life. Judging from the traditions that have reached us and from the character of his descendants he must have lived an honorable and influential life in spite of the unfortunate episode with the Indian. the name was everywhere respected. Coming from Holland where the Dutch Reformed church is the prevailing church he no doubt was a member of that church. When he came to America it was not difficult for him and his descendants to affiliate with the German Reformed church as it was then called and to which most of the Brants earlier belonged.
After a long and useful life this early family came to a peaceful end. Mr. Brandt died July 11, 1802 at the age of 81 years and his wife died December 25, 1804 aged 83 years. They were both buried in “The Brant Cemetery”; south of Ligonier. Before his death he made a will in which each child received 20 pounds (money) except John whom he deeded the farm and who was to care for his mother. To her was willed 12 bushels of wheat, the same amount of rye and 200 pounds of “good” pork. John, Jr., was to care for her in his own house and if she was not satisfied he was to build her a small house nearby in which she might live to her satisfaction. She was to be cared for out of the proceeds of the farm. For more detail the reader is referred to the records at the court house of Greensburg, Pa where the will and deed are recorded.
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a Johannis Brant aged 16 was on a List of Foreigners imported in the Ship Princess Augustus, Samuel Merchant, Master, from Rotterdam qualified for oath of allegiance on 16 Sep 1736. this could possibly be our John Brant a Johannes Brandt was given citizenship in Philadelphia Co., Pa between 1740 and 1773
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The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine
Volume V, Abstracts of Wills of Westmoreland County. Registered at Greensburg, Pennsylvania, Page 344 John Brant, Sr., of Donegal Township, dated September 30, 1793, recorded January 29, 1801; wife3 Mary; Children: Barbara Harganett; Conrad; Abraham; **Henry** and his daughter Mary Brant; Mary Benfort or Beaufort wife of James Benford; Magadalene Barron, and John; son John Brant and Christian Kerr, both of Westmoreland County, executors; witnesses, James Pollock and Phillip Freeman 1, p. 116