

**Jacob Werkheiser
1806 - 1913**

Jacob Werkheiser was born on August 16, 1806. He was baptized on October 9, 1806 in Plainfield Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. His sponsors were Jacob and Elizabeth Itterly. Jacob married a Mary ? From the "Bookshelf Scrapbook" in the Marx Room at the Easton Public Library is a newspaper clipping dated September 27, 1907 or 1908. Jacob Werkheiser, a native of Forks Township, Northampton County, is 107 years of age. Jacob is said to be the oldest resident of Illinois. He was born in 1801 [sic] and moved to Illinois in 1861. He possesses most of his faculties and has a very good memory. Mr. Werkheiser boasts that he has been sick but two weeks of his life. He is a total abstainer and uses tobacco moderately. He leads the simple life, doesn't worry and takes great delight in an old violin, upon which he plays all the popular airs by note. His grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. Some people believe he is the oldest native born in the United States today.

With all of the Werkheisers that have been born and raised in Northampton County, this newspaper abstract or article was the only entry on file about Werkheisers in the Marx Room of the Easton Public Library until 1989, when the John and Deborah Hahn Werkheiser family book was placed there. It has been and still is a puzzle as to where Jacob lived in Illinois. It isn't possible that his grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. When you look at Carl and Anna's grandchildren and great grandchildren he doesn't fit. If you change his date of birth from 1801 to 1806 then he fits as John Martin's son. The 1806 Jacob, was a mason, and bought his father's 23 acre farm at public sale on April 23, 1833 for \$605.00. He resold it to John Nicholas Werkheiser, a yeoman, on April 9, 1834, for \$675.00. There is no further record of Jacob who might be the Jacob in the newspaper article.

Mary Wiberg's note: Ebenezer Werkheiser (my Grand Uncle) lived in Dayton, Ohio from 1849 - 1854. He moved to Decatur, Illinois in 1954 and lived there until 1862 at which time he enlisted for the Civil War. He might have been living with or visiting Jacob (Ebenezer's First Cousin once removed) - Jacob would have been 56 - when Ebenezer enlisted at age 36.