

THE JOHN WERKHEISER, SR.

John Werkheiser, Sr. (November 1, 1759 - October 11, 1831) married Anna Margaret Diehl (March 3, 1761 - January 21, 1829) on March 18, 1782. Anna was the daughter of Simon and Anna Elizabeth Wagner Diehl. John Sr. was born in Bethlehem Township. John Sr. and Anna Margaret resided in Forks Township. They attended the Forks Lutheran Church. John and Anna are buried in the Forks Cemetery.

John Sr. was a Private in the Sixth Class, Sixth Company, of Captain John Lyle's Company of the Second Battalion of Northampton County militia as per Muster Rolls that were dated 1781. After leaving the militia, John became a farmer. Between 1740-1750, John and his father, Carl Werkheiser, bought 240 acres from Thomas Graeme. Around 1770, Graeme still owns the 240 acres, but there is a big influx of German names, including the surnames that intermarried with the Werkheisers, such as: Messinger, Schweitzer, Abel, Beck, Knecht, and Butz. Around 1790, the land splitting continues and John, Peter, and Valentine Werkheiser appear as land owners. John bought Peter's property around 1795, and Peter with his family moved to Briar Creek, Columbia County, Pennsylvania. More German families are buying land and the intermarriages are growing with names like: Fenner, Sandt, Shook, Schwartz, Kemmerrer, Kahler, Schneider, Sickman, Frace, and Miller.

John died without a will, so the Orphan's Court appointed his sons John Jr., Valentine, and George to settle their father's estate. They signed a bond for \$14,000.00, which was witnessed by Christian Fleming (butcher), John A. Probst (clergyman), and Frederick Seitz (brewer). It was dated November 4, 1831. The witnesses were all from Easton, Pennsylvania.

The sons did file an inventory of their father's possessions on November 24, 1831, but they did not complete the task. At his death, John Werkheiser Sr. was a man of no small means. He owned almost 1,400 acres. The historians have no letters or stories handed down to them about the living conditions and experiences of that generation. The following is a list of the inventory:

<u>page 1</u>	<u>page 2</u>
\$ 644.11 - cash on hand-	\$ 60.00 - 6 ton of hay
800.00 - Money in bank deposit	49.00 - 7 ton of hay
100.00 - Horse	15.00 - 3 ton of hay
65.00 - Horse	20.00 - 2 ton of hay, second crop
20.00 - Horse	1.10 - flax unprepared
60.00 - Horse	<u>1.25</u> - 1 bundle of ?
40.00 - Horse	\$ 146.35
75.00 - Mare	
65.00 - Colt	\$ 1.50 - 1 lot of boards
112.00 - 8 cows	1.00 - scale for a woman
49.25 - 17 swine	10.00 - 1 lot of scandlings
8.75 - 7 sheep	16.00 - 4 bushel clove seed
192.00 - 5 wagons and bodies	3.50 - 1 lot of planks
11.00 - 4 ploughs	7.25 - 29 bags
2.50 - 2 harrows	1.00 - 2 flax brakes
4.50 - 4 sleds	1.25 - pitch fork
18.00 - 1 sleigh	1.25 - 5 cow chains
5.50 - 5 pair of ladders	2.00 - 2 wind mills and thrashing flails
20.60 - horse harness	.75 - 2 scales
<u>3.00</u> - cutting box	<u>1.50</u> - 3 wooden shovels
\$ 2,296.21	\$ 47.00

page 3

\$ 1.25 - 1 trough
 1.25 - apple mill
 .25 - bench
 .75 - iron kettle
 7.00 - copper kettle
 2.25 - wheel barrow
 5.00 - 5 barrels with cider
 3.00 - Bundle of wedges and hoes
 1.00 - cabbage plane
 7.82 - 21 gallons of apple whiskey
 2.75 - 6 cider barrels
 1.12 - 1 tar barrel
 27.00 - 135 bushel of potatoes
1.60 - 20 pounds of tallow
 \$ 62.04

page 5

\$ 85.20 - grain on hand
 14.63 - grain in ground-
 807.00 - wheat
 1,011.00 - wheat
 380.10 - rye
 175.70 - John Rice owed him
 480.00 - corn
 35.20 - Jacob Jumper owed him
 24.50 - buckwheat-\$24.50,
5.60 -
 \$ 3,018.93

Received for grain:

\$ 409.95 - from Jacob and Samuel Seiple
 24.50 - David Wagener
 57.61 - George Seiple
202.61 - Fred Seitz
 \$ 694.67

page 4

\$ 9.00 - stove pipe
 8.00 - 1 gun
 3.50 - 10 chairs
 30.00 - 8 day clock and case
 13.00 - 3 beds and bedheads
 4.50 - spun yarn
 2.00 - chest and spinning wheel
 5.00 - Bible
 3.50 - grindstone
 1.00 - secretary
 .25 - heads of cabbage
 1.00 - chest of drawers
 1.25 - cradle and scythe
 4.00 - table
 2.00 - 2 hatchets
2.00 - corner cupboard
 \$ 90.00

page 6

John Correll and Valentine Uhler owed him Notes outstanding against the following:

\$ 542.00 - Philp Meixell & son
 26.20 - P.F.B. Schmid, espr.
 41.06 - George Tindel-
 74.20 - John Nice
 98.41 - George Seiple-\$98.41,
 19.08 - Abraham Bellesfield
 16.27 - George Werkheiser
 272.16 - Valentine Weaver
 9.46 - Leonard Breidinger
 35.10 - Andrew Albert
 12.85 - George Rice and Nicholas Werkheiser
 212.82 - Henry, John, and Andrew Butz-
 23.70 - David Gum-\$23.70,
575.75 - Philip Correll
 \$ 1,959.06

John Werkheiser Sr. paid the bills from Dr. Joseph Smith from the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia for his son Henry. There is at least one reference to Henry as being a lunatic. John Sr. also settled up the estate and paid the debts of his son Jacob who died young leaving a widow and five children, four of whom were minors. These expenses for his two sons were added to the inventory of his estate (there were no amounts listed for these expenses). The final inventory for John Werkheiser Sr.'s estate amounted to **\$11,107.14.**

Mary's note: I copied the above from the web (the original page is no longer there). The monetary amounts did not always add up in the original, but the document gives an approximation of prices at the time.