

Descendants of Jakob Brechtel

Generation No. 1

1. JAKOB¹ BRECHTEL was born Abt. 1670, and died in Germany, Karlsruhe/Durlach area.

More About JAKOB BRECHTEL:

Occupation: Butcher

Child of JAKOB BRECHTEL is:

2. i. JOHANN JAKOB² BRECHTEL, b. 1695, Germany, Karlsruhe/Durlach area; d. 1762, Germany.

Generation No. 2

2. JOHANN JAKOB² BRECHTEL (*JAKOB¹*) was born 1695 in Germany, Karlsruhe/Durlach area, and died 1762 in Germany. He married (1) EVA SUSANNA WEGWESE 20 Aug 1715 in Durlach Karlsruhe, Baden, Germany, daughter of PETER WEGWESE. He married (2) MARY MARGARET Aft. 1719 in Germany. She was born in Germany, and died Aft. 1762.

Notes for JOHANN JAKOB BRECHTEL:

IMMIGRATION RECORD

Name: Johann Jakob Brechtel

Year: 1737

Age: 47

Place: Pennsylvania

Family Members: Wife

Source Publication Code: 8667.12

Primary Immigrant: Brechtel, Johann Jakob

Annotation: Date and port of arrival or date of emigration with intended destination. One is time span between the approximate date of emigration and year of death. Most claimed Durlach as place of origin. This same article also appeared in Genealogical Journal, vol. Source Bibliography: SMITH, CLIFFORD NEAL. "Some Eighteenth-Century Emigrants to America from Durlach, Wuerttemberg-Baden, Germany." In The Palatine Immigrant, vol. 8:3 (Winter 1983), pp. 98-104. Page: 99.

RECORDS PERTAINING TO CHILDREN OF JOHANN JAKOB BRECHTEL (b. 1695)

Records Searched:

FamilySearch Pilot Site (pilot.familysearch.org).

Linnie Louisa Brake Cunningham, The Brake family in West Virginia, 1748-1946, FHL Film 983673 item 12.

Nancy Carol Brake, The family Brake, 1708-ca. 1977, FHL Book 929.273 B731bn.

Karen Harper Ermutlu, Friedrich Keieffer/Frederick Cooper, 1743-c. 1835: from Oberacker, Germany to Washington County, Pennsylvania, FHL Book 929.273 C785e.

David D. Edwards, Brake: a family, a tradition, a contribution, and a legacy, FHL Book 929.273 B731e.

Otto Konrad Roller, Die Einwohnerschaft der Stadt Durlach im 18. Jahrhundert..., FHL Book 943.46/D1 N2r.

Hermann Jacob, Einwohnerbuch der Markgrafschaft Baden-Durlach im Jahre 1709, FHL Book 943.46 N2j.

FamilySearch.org, International Genealogical Index, Batches C93550-2 and M93550-2.

Results:

FamilySearch Pilot Site (pilot.familysearch.org).

Catharina Brechtel, Christening: 31 Dec 1719 Evangelisch, Durlach, Karlsruhe, Baden, Parents: Johann Jacob Brechtel and Eva Susanna

Regina Elisabetha Brechtel, Christening: 15 Feb 1718 Evangelisch, Durlach, Karlsruhe, Baden, Parents: Johann

Jacob Brechtel and Anna Susanna Eva

Johann Martin Brechtel, Christening: 6 June 1716 Evangelisch, Durlach, Karlsruhe, Baden, Parents: Johann Jacob Brechtel and Eva

FamilySearch Pilot Site (pilot.familysearch.org).

Jacob Brechtel married Eva W. on 20 Aug 1715. Evangelisch, Durlach, Karlsruhe, Baden. Father of Groom: Jacob Brechtel. Father of Bride: Peter W.

David D. Edwards, Brake: a family, a tradition, a contribution, and a legacy, FHL Book 929.273 B731e.

From the 1761/70 Will Book 3 page 50 of Frederick County, VA:

Will of John Jacob Brake, dated 18 Aug 1758, names wife Mary Margret, son Martin "now in Germany" and daughters Elizabeth House, Catherine Gryder and Margret Batchler. Probated 1 Jun 1762 by Margaret Brake, widow, administratrix, with Leonard Cooper providing security.

MARRIAGE RECORDS

Marriage of Jacob Brechtel and Eva Wegwese

Evangelische Kirche Durlach (A. Durlach), Kirchenbuch, 1690-1962, FHL Film 1238229

On the 20th August 1715, Jacob Brechtel, distiller (?) and _____ (?), the son of the deceased Jacob Brechtel, citizen and butcher here, was married to Eva, daughter of the deceased Peter Wegwese(sp?), citizen and tenant (?) here.

Citation: Evangelische Kirche Durlach (A. Durlach), Kirchenbuch, 1690-1962, FHL Films 1238217, 1238246, 1238229.

More About JOHANN JAKOB BRECHTEL:

Occupation: Distiller

More About JOHANN BRECHTEL and EVA WEGWESE:

Marriage: 20 Aug 1715, Durlach Karlsruhe, Baden, Germany

More About JOHANN BRECHTEL and MARY MARGARET:

Marriage: Aft. 1719, Germany

Children of JOHANN BRECHTEL and EVA WEGWESE are:

- i. JOHANN MARTIN³ BRAKE, b. 1716, Durlach Karlsruhe, Baden, Germany.

Notes for JOHANN MARTIN BRAKE:

Commonly referred to as "Martin".

More About JOHANN MARTIN BRAKE:

Christening: 06 Jun 1716, Durlach, Baden, Germany^l

- ii. ELIZABETH BRAKE, b. 1718, Durlach Karlsruhe, Baden, Germany; m. ABRAHAM (?) HOUSE.

More About ELIZABETH BRAKE:

Christening: 15 Feb 1718, Durlach Karlsruhe, Baden, Germany

Name at Birth: Regina Elizabetha Brechtel

3. iii. CATHERINE BRAKE, b. 1719, Durlach Karlsruhe, Baden, Germany; d. 1775, America.

Children of JOHANN BRECHTEL and MARY MARGARET are:

4. iv. MARGARET³ BRAKE, b. Aft. 1719, Durlach Karlsruhe, Baden, Germany; m. JOHN BATCHELOR; b. Abt. 1715.
- v. JOHN JACOB BRAKE, b. Abt. 1725, Durlach Karlsruhe, Baden, Germany; d. Abt. 1808, Moorefield, Hardy Co, W(VA).

Generation No. 3

3. CATHERINE³ BRAKE (*JOHANN JAKOB² BRECHTEL, JAKOB¹*) was born 1719 in Durlach Karlsruhe, Baden, Germany², and died 1775 in America^{2,2,2}. She married HANS MARTIN GRIDER^{2,2} 1746 in Frederick, Virginia, USA², son of HANS GRIDER and BARBARA SCHENK. He was born 1717 in Runnenburg, Basel, Frick Valley, Switzerland^{2,2}, and died 04 Jul 1775 in Winchester, Frederick Co, VA.

More About CATHERINE BRAKE:

Also Known As: Catron

Christening: 31 Dec 1719, Durlach Karlsruhe, Baden, Germany

More About HANS GRIDER and CATHERINE BRAKE:

Marriage: 1746, Frederick, Virginia, USA²

Children of CATHERINE BRAKE and HANS GRIDER are:

- i. CHRISTIANA⁴ GRIDER².
- ii. NANCY GRIDER², b. 1748, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, USA²; d. 1840, Burke, North Carolina, USA².
- iii. MARTIN GRIDER², b. 1750, Lancaster Valley, Pennsylvania, USA²; d. 1844, Cumberland, Kentucky, USA².
- iv. HANS MARTIN GRIDER², b. 1751²; d. 1838².
- v. FREDERICK GRIDER², b. 1752, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, USA²; d. 1819, Adair, Kentucky, USA².
- vi. JOHN GRIDER², b. 11 Jul 1755, Maryland, USA²; d. 03 Oct 1838, Spring Creek, Henderson, Tennessee, USA².
- vii. RACHEL GRIDER², b. 04 Feb 1757, Virginia, USA²; d. 1853, Cumberland, Kentucky, USA².
- viii. CORNELIUS MILLER GRIDER², b. 1758, Virginia, USA²; d. 27 Oct 1830, Lincoln, North Carolina, USA².
- ix. JACOB GRIDER², b. 07 Jul 1760, Loudon, Virginia, USA²; d. 06 Mar 1840, Burke, North Carolina, USA².
- x. VALENTINE GRIDER², b. 1762, Loudon, Virginia, USA²; d. 02 Mar 1837, Rockhouse Bottom, Cumberland, Kentucky, USA².

4. JOHN JACOB³ BRAKE (*JOHANN JAKOB² BRECHTEL, JAKOB¹*)¹ was born Abt. 1725 in Durlach Karlsruhe, Baden, Germany, and died Abt. 1808 in Moorefield, Hardy Co, W(VA). He married (1) MARIA ELIZABETHA (KIEFER) COOPER Abt. 1750 in Germany, daughter of JOHANN KEIFER and ANNA DELLINGER. She was born 06 Oct 1730 in Oberacker, Karlsruhe, Baden, Germany, and died Abt. 1765 in Hardy County, WV. He married (2) CATHERINE STUMP Bef. 1779, daughter of HANS STUMPF and MARIA WHITECOTTON. She was born 22 Oct 1741 in Schlaitdorf, Germany, and died 31 Mar 1816 in Hardy County.

Notes for JOHN JACOB BRAKE:

Brake/Nisewanger/Cooper Lease

From Northern Neck [of Virginia] Deed Book Series Vol 2, Deed Books 5, 6, 7, 8 for Frederick Co., Va, Bk 8, pg. 335-6 Sept. 1762.

(Lease) Between Jacob Brake and Elizabeth his wife, John Nisewanger and Magdaline Nisewanger his wife, which said Elizabeth and Magdaline are Adm. of the goods and Chattle Rights and Credits of Jacob Cooper Deceased (to) Leonard Cooper of the Parish and County of Frederick yeoman. Consideration of five Shillings. Tract of Land Containing Two Hundred and Twenty Acres Situate lying and being on Pan Creek a Branch of Cedar Creek...and the same Granted to said Jacob Cooper in his lifetime by Survey made by Mr. R. Rutherford one of his Lordships Surveyors Rent.

Wit: Lewis Stephens Jacob (JB) Brake

Thomas Smith Elizabeth (X) Brake

Christopher Wetzel John Nisewanger

Magdaline (M) Nisewanger

Recorded 3 May 1763

Bk 8, pg. 337-7 Sept. 1762

(Release) Between Jacob Brake and Elizabeth Brake his wife, John Nisewanger and Magdalene his wife, all of the Parish and County of Frederick (to) Leonard Cooper of the said Parish and County...for and in Consideration

of Forty Pounds...220 Acres (same as above)

Wit: same as above Signed same as above

Notes by Linda Meyers posted: 24 Aug 2005

Following is what I have on Jacob Brake of Hardy County compiled with the aid of several accomplished genealogists. If anyone has primary documentation which disputes any of the information here, please send it to me. (spelling in the primary documents typed "as written")

It is family tradition that Baron John Brake was the progenitor of the Brake family in WV, that he migrated from Germany and lived on the South Branch of the Potomac about 15 miles south of present day Moorefield. While we are eternally grateful for the foundational research of the early Brake historians, who did the best they could with the resources available to them, we have since determined that Baron John Brake was Johan Jacob Brake Jr. and was commonly known as Jacob Brake and Jacob Brake, Jr. To avoid confusion between this Jacob Brake and that of his father, Johan Jacob Brake Sr. and that of his son who is known as Jacob Brake Jr., the Indian captive, we will refer to him as Jacob Brake Sr., and to his father as Johan Jacob Brake Sr.

We know very little about the elder Brake family. Johan Jacob Brake Sr. and his wife Mary Margaret were probably born in Germany. When they immigrated to America is unknown, although it was before the marriage of their son, Jacob Brake Sr., which probably took place before 1850, likely in Pennsylvania. Johan Jacob Brake Sr. died in Frederick County, VA towards the end of 1758. Prior to his death he drafted the following will.

In the name of God Amen the 18th day of August one thousand seven hundred fifty eight, I, John Jacob Braeak being sick of body but of perfect mind and memory thanks be given unto God therefore calling into mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament. That is to say principally and first of all, I give and renounce my soul unto Almighty God that gave it and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in decent Christian Burial at the discretion of my executors nothing doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again by the Power of God and as something such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life I give, demise and dispose of the same in manner following. I give and bequeath to Mary Margret my dearly beloved wife all and singular to live and to her use and that she may leave it to whom she please at her decease. Accepting to my son Martin that is now in Germany, Elizabeth House, Catherine Gryder and Margret Batchler five shillings to each of them and I do hereby revoke all former wills as witness my hand the day of year above mentioned.

Witness present

George Ludwick Hochimer John Jacob Break mark

Moses Striker

Lawrence Stephens

At a Court held for Frederick County June 1st, 1760 this Last Will and Testament of John Jacob Brake was proved by the oath of Moses Striker and Lawrence Stevens witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorrded and Margaret Brake, Widow of the said deceased, having made thereto Certificate for obtaining administration of all and singular the goods and chattels, rights and credits of the said descendents with this said will annexed is granted her, she having with Leonard Cooper her security entered into and acknowledged bond in the penalty of two Hundred Pooiunds for the faithfully administration of the said estate.

By the Court,

I.A. Keith

Know all men by these presents that I, Margaret Brake, and Leonard Cooper are held and firmly bound unto Thomas Speake, Lewis Moore, Joseph Glass and Joseph Landgon Justices in the Commission of the Peace for Frederick County in the sum of two hundred poiunds to be paid to the said justices, their creditors, administratios and assings to which payments will and truly to be made we bind ourselves and every of our heirs, executors and administrators jointly and severallly firmly by those presents sealed with our seals and dated this first day of June 1762.

The condition of this obligation is such that if the above bound Margaret Brake Administratrix with the Last Will and Testament of Jacob Brake deceased annexed to make or cause to be made a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the good, chattels and credits of the said deceased which goods, chattels and credits of the said deceased which have or shall come to the hands possession or knowledge of her, the Said Margaret Brake, the

hands or possession of any ohter person or persons for her and the same so bade do exhibit or cause to be exhibited unto the County Court of Frederick at such time as it shall be thereto required by the said Court and the same goods, chattels or credits of the said deceased at the time of her death which at any time after shall come to the hands of possession of the said Margaret or into the hands if possession of any other person or persons for her to well and truly administer according to Law and further do make a Just and true account of her actings and doings therein when thereto required by the said Court and also do well and truly pay and deliver all the Legacies contained and specifed in thie said Testament as far as the said Goods, Chattels and Credits will thou unto extend according to the value thereof and as the Law shall charge deal in this obligation is bound otherwise to remain in full Force and Value.

Signed and Sealed and Delivered Mary E. Brake seal
in the presence of
Leonard Cooper

At a Court held for Frederick County June 1st, 1762. This Bond was acknowledged by Mary Brake and Leonard Cooper parties thereto and ordered to be recorded. By the Court,
J.A. Keith, C.C.

A small appraisalment of his estate was recorded on August 4, 1762 in Frederick County, VA. Note that Margaret signed the above document Mary E. Her name may have been Maria Margaretha Elizabetha or this may be a clue to her maiden name. After finalizing her obligations to her husband's estate, Margaret may have left Frederick County with her son, Jacob Brake Sr. and settled on the South Branch. In November of 1767 a Margaretha Brechtel is recorded on a list of communicants from the South Branch in the records of the Evangelical Reformed Church of Frederick, MD.

Oral history tells us that Jacob Brake Sr. was married twice and that his first wife, Miss Nyeswanan, was killed by the Indians during the Battle of the Trough, which took place on the South Branch in April 1756. Thanks to researchers Harriet and Jack Piper who have diligently searched the court house records of Frederick Co., Virginia and Hardy and Hampshire Co., WV and to David Armstrong of Elkins, WV who has assisted in this search, we can comfortably conclude that Maria Elizabetha Kieffer/Cooper was the first wife of Jacob Brake, Sr. They may have been married in Frederick County, VA, but probably the marriage took place in Pennsylvania, prior to the Cooper's migration to VA around 1750. We have also concluded that Jacob Brake Sr. was living in Frederick Co., VA, on Cedar Creek, at the time of the Battle of the Trough and that his wife was probably killed after the birth of her sixth child, Abraham, which took place in 1763.

Maria Elizabeth Kieffer was born in Oberacker, Germany on 6 Oct. 1730. She immigrated to America with her parents, Johann (Hans) Jacob and Anna Maria (Dellinger) Kieffer. The family arrived in Philadelphia from London in 1732, on the Ship "Samuel", Hugh Percy, Cmdr. Passenger lists include the following family members: Frederick Keffer, age 49, Leonhard Keffer, age 27, Jacob Kiffer, age 27, Maria Kefferin, age 46, Elizabeth Kifferin, age 18 and Maria Kefferin age 23. The Kieffer name was probably Anglicized to Cooper with the family's move to VA from Pennsylvania around 1750.

Below is the Piper's documentation of Frederick County Jacob Brake Sr. Note that the following six surveys mention Jacob Brake/Break and Jacob Brake Junr.

• Martin Crider/Grider, 18 Jan. 1749/50 - 28 Feb. 1749/50: 346 a. where he lives on a br. of Ceader Crk; adj. Fry's pat. CC Jacob Brake & Jacob Durkley. Surv. John Baylis.

• Michall Poker, assignee of Philip Harsey; 18 Jan. 1749/50 - Mar. 1750/51: 100 a. on Ceader Crk. where Harsey lives; adj. William Russell & "A Dutch mans plantation." CC Jacob Break and Wm Dyer. Surv. William Baylis.

• Jacob Cooper, no warrant, survd 4 Dec. 1751; 220 a including where he lives on Pen Brook, a br. of Ceedar Crk. CC Jacob Brake, Junr & James Sears. Marker - Philip Harker. surv. Robert Rutherford.

• John Batchelder, no warrant, survey dated 5 Dec. 1751; 250 a. including where he lives on Penbrook, a br. of Ceeder Crk.; adj. Jacob Cooper. CC Jacob Brake, Junr & James Sears. Marker; FredK Grytor. Surv. Robert Rutherford.

• Rudolph White (on verso of survey, should be Rodolph Whiteman); 17 Feb. 1752 - 15 May 1753; 264 a. including where he lives on a br. of Cedar Crk.; adj. Jacob Brake, Michel White, Angel Hockman CC Joseph Disponite & Jacob Brake. Surv. Robt. Rutherford.

• Isaac Zane in his own right & as assignee of John Potts and Jno Leshner, all assignees of Majr Lewis Stephens; 10 Feb. 1762 - 28 May 1762; 3,195 a. on Cedar Crk. at Great Falls under North Mt.; adj. in wart - Henry Secrist, Nicholas Princeler, Leonard Cooper, John Bacheler, Jacob Cooper, Sears, John Richards, Angle Stockman, Nicholas Princeler, Henry Secrest on drs. of Back Crk., John Frederick. CC Jacob Brake & Jacob Birkly. marker; Mr. Lewis Stephens & Peter Stephens. Surv. Robert Rutherford.

The White survey was the only survey which mentioned Brakes' adjacency. This was not sufficient enough information for the Pipers to pin point the exact location of the Brake property. However, they feel they were within a one mile radius of his land. They note that within a 4 or 5 mile radius, there are very few tillable mountain meadows. The White survey and the surveys of a series of other adjacent properties are located approximately ½ mile NE of the present village of Mountain Falls, east of Rt. #608, or about one mile north of the lowest dip of the southward bend of Cedar Creek.

There is evidence that Jacob Brake Sr. and wife, Elizabeth were still in Frederick Co., when Jacob Cooper executed his will on 7 Aug. 1758. He stated his heirs were son, Jacob Cooper and daus., Maglen and Elesebth. The will was filed on 6 Sept. 1758 by Magdalena Nisewanger and Elizabeth Brake. Jacob Cooper made his mark in the presence of James Moore, Martin Grider, and Leonard Kiffer, his brother.

The will was administered in 1762 by Elizabeth and her sister. The Cooper property was sold on 6 Sept. 1762 and ordered recorded on 3 May 1763. This will, dated 6 Sept. 1758 is the first reference found that Elizabeth Cooper was married to a Brake. Jacob Brake made purchases at the Cooper estate sale., return dated 01 Apr. 1760. This record shows an entry of a 40L debt to Jacob Brake to a plantation .

The Cooper Lease, dated, 06 Sept. 1762, citing an indenture between Jacob Bracke and Elizabeth, his wife, and John Nisawanger and Magdaline, his wife and release, dated 07 Sept. 1762, are the earliest records documenting Elizabeth as the wife of Jacob Brake Sr. Jacob signed with his mark. The most concrete evidence that confirms Frederick Co. Jacob Brake and Hardy Co. Jacob Brake are one and the same. They both signed with a block IB. For comparison, the two best preserved, clearet, IB marks are on the Frederick Co. Disponet estate, dated 03 Apr. 1758, and the Hampshire Co., House estate, 13 August 1765. The Cooper sale was not proved until 3 May 1863. There is no indication that the Brakes attended. The last official record of Elizabeth Cooper Brake was 7 Sept. 1863.

The exact date Jacob Brake left Frederick County and took up residence on the South Fork remains uncertain. The evidence presented shows Jacob was in Frederick County through 7 Sept. 1762. Further, exhaustive search of wills, inventories, estate sales, land records and court records has found no evidence Jacob was in either Hampshire or Augusta County prior to the time he purchased his South Fork land. Jacob completed his purchase of his South Fork property i.e. Lot #1 on 6 May 1763. Lot #1, 640 a. was originally granted to Peter REED on 7 Sept. 1749 from the Lord Proprietor of the Northern Neck of Virginia. He built a grist mill known as Reed's Mill. Reed sold Lot #1 to Peter HAAS, 22/23 February 1753, but the mill continued to be known as Reed's Mill. Peter Haas sold Lot #1, 640 a. to Jacob Brechtel of Hampshire County, lease dated 5 May 1753, release dated 6 May 1763. The mill then became known as BRAKE'S MILL.

After the Battle of the Trough (circa 24th Apr. 1756) there was a period of peace, but hostilities were renewed in 1763 and the Shawnees continued to attack the South Fork until 1765 when hostilities ceased. One unreferenced source states "Last Indian raid in Augusta Co., 1864, Shawnees traveled north through the Cow Pasture up the South Fork, raiding and killing as they made their way north to go to Ohio." This reference is significant because the southern boundary line of Jacob Brake's Lot #1 eventually became the boundary between Augusta and Hampshire County. There are in Augusta County tombstones dated 1764 indicating death by massacre.

These facts provide sufficient evidence that the BRAKE massacre occurred in 1763-1765, and not in 1756 at the Battle of the Trough. The 1763-1765 time span provides greater support to the family tradition and historical accounts that Jacob Brake Jr., the Indian captive, was age 10 or 11 when he was captured at the time of his mother's massacre and lived for a period of time with the Shawnees. In the 1830 Lewis County census, Jacob Jr. brackets his age between 1750-1760. He was probably born around 1752-53, which would make him 10 or 11

in 1763. Earlier reports that he was born around 1749/50 do not fit in with the 1756 Battle of the Trough. Also, his sister, Elizabeth (Brake) Jackson has been documented as being born on 22 Feb. 1757. This would mean that she was conceived shortly after the Battle of the Trough, probably towards the end of May 1756.

Other errors have occurred in the oral history of this family. George W. Jackson, in a letter to his niece stated that "John and Elizabeth Cummins Jackson emigrated and settled in Calvert County, MD 1754 and that Jacob Brake, the father of my mother immigrated with his family of five children at a later period from Germany, prior to the Revolutionary War and settled in Hardy Cy 15 miles from Moorfield (sic)." In this statement, George W. has confused the generations. It was his great grandfather, Johan Jacob Brake Sr. who immigrated from Germany, with his wife, Mary Margaret, and five children, Martin, Elizabeth, Catherine, Margaret and Jacob. They settled on Cedar Creek, Frederick Co., VA. Their son, Jacob Brake, Sr., also an immigrant, was the father of George's mother, Elizabeth (Brake) Jackson, and eventually settled in Hardy County near Moorefield.

On 17 May 1867 Laura Jackson Arnold wrote to George W. Jackson, from Buckhannon, WV. In this letter she discusses a letter she received from Abram W. Brake. Abram W. Brake was the son of captive Jacob Brake, Jr. and grandson of Jacob Brake Sr. In his letter to Laura, Abram W. made several statements we believe to be incorrect. We believe that this letter has caused much of the confusion about our Brake family.

"George Jackson (your grandfather) was the oldest son of John Jackson Sr." George Jackson was the oldest son of John Jackson Sr. He was NOT Laura's grandfather. Laura was the daughter of Jonathan. the s/o Col. Edward and Mary (Haddan) Jackson.

"Your grandmother was Elizabeth Brake, daughter of Jacob Brake, who was a native of Germany". Jacob Brake, Sr., native of Germany, was the father of Elizabeth Brake, but Elizabeth was not Laura's grandmother. Laura had a step-grandmother, Elizabeth (Brake) Jackson, who was the daughter of John Brake, son of Jacob Brake, Sr. If Abram was confused about this, then he was possibly confused about his next statement.

"He (Jacob Brake) married a Miss Nyeswanan for his first wife, and after she had six children, she was killed by the Indians on the South Branch where they had always lived." We believe that Abram has confused Elizabeth (Cooper) Brake with her sister Magdalena (Cooper) Nieswanger. When trying to recall his grandmother's maiden surname he inadvertently recalled the married surname of his grandmother's sister. Thus, Miss Nyeswanan became known as the wife of Jacob Brake Sr.

"Jacob Brake, her husband, some years after her death married Miss Catherine Stump, of the same place, also a German. He died at an old age at the homestead."

There is evidence that the last statement is correct. This disputes the theory that the Old Baron left the country, never to return after the Tory uprising in 1781, as stated by numerous historians. The Tory Uprising or the Brake/Claypool Rebellion took place over a period of several months. Jacob Fisher in his pension application states: "On April 1781 marched against the Tories in the western part of Hampshire Co. which tour ended July 1781. Engaged in skirmish with Tories, near Brakes in Hampshire, now Hardy Co." The following is a letter from Col. VanMeter of Hampshire Co. to Thomas Jefferson, then Governor of Virginia, dated 11 April 1781. I am sorry to inform your Excellency that a dangerous insurrection has lately arisen in this County, occasioned by the execution of the late Acts of Assembly for recruiting this state's quota of troops to serve in the Continental Army, and the Act for supplying the Army with clothes, provisions and wagons, in consequence of which the collector of the tax under the former Act has been opposed in the execution of his duty and has been obliged to desist from any further proceeding therein, and although every measure that prudence could suggest has been taken to suppress the rioters, yet it has proved ineffectual by reason of their having a superior force. I therefore thought it my duty to lay the matter before your Excellency, and hope such measures will be taken in consequence of the late Act of Assembly for giving your Excellency further powers and as shall be thought requisite.

This day our draft was completed and in a few day shall send your Excellency a full account thereof and every other necessary information requisite."
Garrett VanMeter, Colonel

Kercheval in his History of the Valley of Virginia first published in 1833, tells the following story of the events which took place during the Tory uprising on the Brake homestead. No where in this account does Kercheval mention a "castle like home" or the destruction of Jacob Brake's building, stories which have been told

to us by other historians. If Brake's Mill and distillery were destroyed, they were replaced by 1784 when Jacob's taxes included four outbuildings.

The army proceeded on to pay their respects to Mr. John Brake, an old German, who had a fine farm with extensive meadows, a mill, large distillery, and many fat hogs and cattle... Brake, as before observed, had joined the Tory band, and his house was their place of rendezvous, where they feasted on the best he had. All this appearing unquestionable, Morgan marched his army to his residence, they halted, and spent two days and nights with the reluctant host. His troops lived on the best his fine farm, mill and distillery afforded, while their horse fared no less luxuriously upon his fine unmowed meadows, oat fields and etc. As Brake had entertained and feasted the Tories, Morgan concluded that he should feast them in turn.

The Hampshire County garrison officially requested help from Fort Winchester 22 May 1781. Jacob Brake Sr. was officially arraigned in Hampshire County court at Romney on 21 June 1781, Judge Thomas Bryan Martin, presiding. He was the first signer of the following petition. The petitioners were pardoned by the new Virginia Governor, Thomas Nelson.

Humbly Shewth, That your Petitioners living in an obscure and remote corner of the State are precluded from every intelligence of the state affairs either by public papers or from the information of men of credit and veracity, and at the same infested by the wicked emissaries or pretended emissaries of the British who travel through all parts of the frontiers and by misrepresentations and false news poisoned the minds of the ignorant and credulous settlers. That your petitioners from narrow and confined notions and attached too stongly to their interests conceived the Act for laying the enormous tax of eighty pounds (80#) paper money on every 100# hundred pound of their property, rated in specie and a bounty for the recruits of the Continental Army, and the law subjecting them at the same time to be drafted for the said service and the further Act for clothing the Army as unjust and oppressive after paying such a high tax on their assessed property. And those wicked and designing men by their artful insinuations and false intelligences industriously propagated to delude and seduce your petitioners, too readily prevailed on them to oppose the execution of the said Acts and take up arms in defense of what those wretches called their liberty and property. But your petitioners humbly shew that they never concerted or conspired the destruction of Government or the hurt of any individual, further then to defend themselves when attacked or compelled to yield obedience to those laws; and when your petitioners were made sensible of their error by the gentlemen from the adjacent counties who marched a body of men sufficient to have put all the disobedient and deluded crew to the sword, but, from motives of humanity and prudence attempted the more mild method of argument to dispel the delusion and bring them back to their duty, your petitioners, ready to receive information and open to correction, readily gave up their arms and engaged to deliver themselves to justice and submit to the laws of their country when called for, which they have since done and stood their trial in the County Court of Hampshire, and were by that Court adjudged to stand a further trial before a Special Court of Oyer and Terminer appointed to meet at the Court House on the 10th day of July last, but the gentlemen nominated as Judges by the Honorable Board failing to attend, the prosecution was postponed; and your petitioners were then informed by a proclamation under the hand of the County Lieutenant that the Executive, ever prone to adopt the most lenient measures to penitent offenders, offered pardon and indemnity to all those concerned in the late insurrection, if they would return to their duty and behave as good citizens in future. And your Petitioners impressed with a deep sense of the gracious intentions of your Excellency and the Honorable Board towards the ignorant and deluded were encouraged to sue for pardon; and that the same act of grace might be extended towards them since they humbly conceive their conduct has been more consonant to the duty of good citizens, who conscious that they have transgressed against the laws of their country readily delivered themselves to Justice and a trial by their peers to suffer the punishment due to their crimes though committed through ignorance and misguided zeal. Whereas those who have availed themselves of the said proclamation, the equally guilty, did not come in until their safety was insured to them by promise of pardon, wherefore you petitioners humbly hope from the known clemency of your Excellency, and that governs the Councils of the Honorable Board, that they will be graciously pleased to pardon their past offenses and include in the Act of Indemnity so mercifully held out to offenders under the like circumstances and they engage on the faith of honest citizens to act a true and faithful part to the State in future if they are released from further prosecution and restored to the privileges of other citizens; which your petitioner John Claypole is more encouraged to expect form a letter of General Morgan to your said petitioner wherein he promises to procure his pardon on his returning to his allegiance and becoming a good citizen, this he humbly conceives his behavior has, since he was convinced by his error and freed from those mistaken prejudices that seduced him from his duty, wherefore in deep contrition for their past misconduct and sincere promise of conducting themselves as good citizens for the time to come they humbly pray for pardon, and that the Honorable Board will save their innocent wives and children from ruin and misery, which they must necessarily be involved, for the crimes of their deluded husband and parents. And your petitioners will pray.....

Petitions bound over for Jury in November:

JACOB BRAKE, Jacob Yeazle, George Sites, Adam Rothenbaugh, Thomas Stacey, Charles borer, John Mace, John Rorebaugh, Jacob Pickle, Michael Algier, Henry Rodenbaugh, John Wease, ISAAC BRAKE, Martin Rodenbaugh, Adam Wease, John Mitcheld, Jacob House, Adam Wease, Jr. Samuel Louri, Jeremiah Ozburn, Leornard Hier, Jacob Crites, George Peck, Anthong Reger, John Casner, Josia Ozburn.

Prior to the Brake/Claypool Rebellion, Jacob Brake Sr. married Catherine Stump. She was the daughter of Michael Stump and Anna Catherine (Neff) Stump. Anna Catherine was most unhappy with her daughter's marriage to Jacob Brake. In her will she made her feelings clear by stating that Catherine was to receive the inheritance, not Jacob Brake. The earliest reference we have for Catherine is a deed dated 8/9 May 1775, Jacob Brake and his wife Catherine sold 200 a. on the mountain to John Wolfe.

On 2 Apr. 1782, Jacob Brak, assignee of Christian Simmons, received 134 a in Hampshire co. Surveyed 16 Apr. 1784. Signed by Governor Beverly Randolph 29 Oct. 1789. In 1790, Jacob Brake senr was recorded as having 9 members in his household. Jacob Jr. and John were living on there own. Jacob Sr. purchased, in 1793, 114 a. adjoining his own land 1 and extending up Reed's Run towards Cacapehaon Mountain and on the east side of the South Fork of the So. Branch of Potomack River.

To our knowledge, Jacob and Catherine had only one child, Michael Brake. In the fall of 1807, approximately two years before his death, Jacob and Catherine deeded the homestead property to Michael. Jacob and Catherine Brake, 13 Oct. 1807, deeded, 640 a. (Lot. #1) which was originally purchased from Peter Haas, plus an additional 114 a. to Michael Brake.

Jacob Brake Sr. died in late 1808 or early 1809. The administration of his estate was granted to Geo. Simon. An itemized sale bill of his personal property was recorded in Hardy Co., WV on 10 Feb. 1809.

The Sale Bill of Jacob Brake, deceased

l b s p

John Dasher to one dutch oven & tackling 2
Abram Simon to one small kettle 3
Caleb Peacock to one pot 6 9
Jacob Sites to one frying pan 16
Do to one weeding hoe 6
Caleb Peacock to one trunk, and sundries 1 1
Jacob Idleman to one fat tub and sundries 1 6
Jacob Rohrbough to one half-bushel 3
Leonard Stump Jr. to one churn 1 3
Jacob Sites to two planes 7
Michael Brake some hames and collars 3
Do to two blind bridles and one punch 5
Leonard Stump Jr. to one hyde 3
Abram House to three mill gurgens? 7
George Jordan to one cutting box and knife 1 7
Jacob Draise Jr. to some copper 2 3
Do to one loom 1
Do to one pair of gears and reeds 10
Caleb Peacock to one big wheel 1
John Dasher to two flat irons 9 6
Morgan Ratliff to one spinning wheel 16 4
James Morrow to one fire tong and shovel 4
Silas Morrow to one check reel 5
George Simon to one pair fire stops 13
Jacob Sites to one box and tackling 10
Do to one clock 10
Leonard Stump to one dish and two basins 1 4
Daniel Sites to one small box 2 6
George Mongold to some copperware 2

Widow Brake to some pewter 1 2 5
 Jacob Ildeman to sugar box and sundry 2
 Michael Brake to one padlock 1 3
 Jacob Rohrbough to one book case 6
 John Harness to one piece of harness leather 6 3
 William Ratliff to two pieces of upper leather 15 6
 Leonard Stump to one pair of sheep shears 3 1
 George Glaze to some books 10 8
 Daniel Sites to one pair sheep shears 3 1
 Caleb Peacock to one Bible 2 9 1
 Christiana Dasher to three books 16 6
 John Shook to one shotgun and pouch 1 1 6
 Henry Kessel to one cheer (chair) 6
 Michael Harness to one saddle and bridle 3 6
 Do to one pair of boots 3
 George Mongold to some crock ware 1
 Do to some crock ware 1
 Jacob Rohrbough to some tin ware 2
 Daniel Sites to one coffee mill 5
 William Ratliff to one candle molds and sundry 5 5
 James Morrow to two pair of silver buckles 2 6
 Jacob Sites to one buckle and pincers 13 6
 Jacob Rohrbough to one key and sundry 3 6
 Christiana Simon to one pot 7
 John Dasher to one skillet 4
 George Mongold to one sifter 1 6
 Jacob Dasher to one kettle 1 5
 John Shirk to one copper do 18
 William Ratliff to one crout cutter 2
 John Alkin to two forks 2
 Do to one box of iron 1 1
 Jacob Sites to one bushel iron 16 1
 George Mongold to 3 plow shares 12
 Jacob Morson to one mallock and shovel 58
 Widow Brake to one pot hummel 7 1
 William Ratliff to four augurs 2 6
 John Shirk to three corn hoes 3 6
 Caleb Peacock to one cleavis and chissel 3 10
 Michael Brake to one pot trammel 9
 John Dasher to one drawing knife 3 1
 Michael Brake to one crow bar 12
 Abraham House to one __hook wedge 4 3
 William Ratliff to one axe 10 7
 Daniel Sites to one axe and hatchet 2
 Do to one Do 2 5
 Harmon Shook to one big saw 15
 Abraham House to one hand saw and sundries smudge
 Silas Phillips to one log chain and sundries 10 6
 Sigman Our to two bells 1 9
 John Brake to one crow bar 13 3
 Jacob Sites to some old iron 1 7 7
 Caleb Peacock to two double trees 1 3
 Do to one plow 13 3
 John Alkin to one iron tooth harrow 13 9
 Valentine Cooper to two wagon tires 1 11 11
 Jacob Draise Jrn. to two do 1 12
 Do to one do 1 4 6
 Abraham House to one apple mill and trough 15
 Valentine Cooper to one still and tubs 7

John Dasher to one grind stone 9
Michael Brake to 8 geese 12 6
John Harness to 6 sheep 2 8 6
Silas Phillips to one cow 2 11
George Stump Jr. to one cow 3 5
George Neff Jr. to one mare 6
Widow Brake to one mare 5 10
Leonard Stump to two hogsheads 12 1
Do to one barrel and one bedstead 2 2
George Mongold to one pair of steelyards 9 9
Michael Brake to one Hogshead 6
Do to four chairs 2
Do to one bench 3
Jesse Stump to one gun augur 1 4
Leonard Stump to one table 4
John Harness to one dresser 5 3
Benjamin Simon to one jug 4 4
John Stump to one jug 2
John Skirk to one ? 1 6
Widow Brake to one bed and bedstead 9 6
Do to one blanket 1 10
John Shirk to one bed and bedstead 5 2 1
George Stump 3rd to one bed and bedstead 4 8 2
Widow Brake to one chest 6
John Shook Jr. to one chest 8
Peter Sines to one cloth 1 3 3
John Shook Jr. to one coat and shirt 7 6
William Ratliff to one jacket and breeches 2 2
Caleb Peacock to one coat and jacket 11
John Shook to breeches jacket and cap 11 1
Do to coat and breeches 3 4
Do to one coat and sundries 6
Leonard Stump Jr. to one tub 4
George Mongold to two tubs 3 6
Do to one do 1
Do to one grindstone 9

signed by George Simon

At a court held for Hardy County the 14th day of June 1809 this account of sales of the Estate of Jacob Brake decâ€™d was returned and ordered to be recorded. Teste Ed Williams.

In obedience to an order of the worshipful court of Hardy County to us directed we have examined the sale Bill and Vouchers to us produced by George Simon adm of Jacob Break decd and do find it as follows

amount of sale bill 314.86
Michael Brakes obligation payable in different ___total 3133.33
John Calso ? and Isaac Brakes Debt 30.79
Cash and Cobb? dollars 220.00
3639.98

Expended in funeral charges 20.59
For Admis services 110.00
\$130.59
3568.39

We also find a note of Peter Shook as per appears bill ten dollars to have been paid.

Then appears to be in the administrators hand after paying the foregoing sums to be due the Estate of Jacob Brake decd the sum of three thousand five hundred and sixty eight dollars and thirty nine cents when ever the same becomes due upon the obligation of Michael Brake which is in the hands of the administrator. Given under our hands this 5th day of November 1810.

Abel Seymour
John Crayon

In obedience to an order of the Worshipful county court of Hardy to the undersigned directed we have this day re-examined and settled the Estate of Jacob Brake decd as produced by George Simon the administrator of said Jacob Estate and find it as follows to wit.

The amount of the sale Bill is \$314.86
Michael Brake's obligations
not due 2933.33
John Colp note 4.17
Isaac Brake Debt 26.62
Cash and Cobb dollars 220.00
3498.98

taxes, clk notes, funeral expense
cryer 31.99
admis commission 110.00
141.99
3356.99
Widow's third 1118.99
2238.00

By the above statement it appears that there remains in the administrators hands after payment of Debts expenses this commission the sum of three thousand three hundred and fifty six dollars and ninety nine cents which after deducting the widows third (which is eleven hundred and nineteen dollars and fifty seven cents) there remains due unto the heirs of Jacob Brake Two thousand two hundred and thirty eight dollars when the same may become due upon Michael Brake's obligations all of which is respectfully submitted to the worshipful court Given under our hands this 10th day of November 1812
\$2230.00 John Craigen
A. Seymour

At a court continued and held for Hardy County the 12th day of November 1812.
This amount of the settlement of the administration of the Estate Jacob Brake decd was this day returned and ordered to be recorded.
Teste
Ed. Williams Cty Clk
Catherine (Stump) Brake died in Hardy County in 1816. Her will was recorded on 10 April 1816. She left everything to her son, Michael Brake.

After the payments of Debts and funeral expenses I give the balance of my Estate, real and personal of whatever kind it may be to my son Michael Brake to him, and his heirs Executors, administrators and assigns forever that it may not be misunderstood it is not the wish of me, Catherine Brake, that the balance of children shall have any part of my estate, real or personal, as they have not had any trouble in maintaining me since the Death of my husband, Jacob Brake. My son, Michael, has been holy at the expense of nursing me in my last sickness.

The following is taken from Linnie Louisa Brake Cunningham's manuscript "The Brake Family In West Virginia", published in 1946.

From the summit of one of those picturesque mountains which traverse the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, in what is now Hardy County, there emerges from some subterranean fountain, a rivulet of clear, cold water.

At first it is only a wobbly little stream and lies quietly for a time in the swampy grassy bed into which Mother Nature has so unceremoniously precipitated it. Very soon however, this little new-born stream begins and cautiously wriggles toward the brow as though seeking a glimpse of the scene below. Apparently satisfied with the view, it at once begins a headlong descent down the mountain side. Having once started down the steep decline there is no turning back; so on it goes, gathering momentum with each bound. Wild flowers and ferns nod and beckon as they seek to moisten their foliage in its spray; the wild things of the wood timidly approach its banks, then scurry away to cover, as though giving an invitation to game of tag or hid-and-seek. But none of these attractions deter this plucky little stream, or swerve it exploring the wonders of the world into which it so recently

has entered. So on and on it goes, leaping and bounding from boulder to boulder, beaten and buffeted, whipped into spray, until at last it plunges into a rocky bed at the foot of the mountain.

Perhaps now in this quiet retreat our battered little stream can be content to stop for a time and furnish a hiding place for the frightened minnow which that barefoot urchin seeks to ensnare; or a cool drink for that thirsty dog which we see approaching; but not so; as though not satisfied with its recent acrobatics, it rushes across the narrow country road, on past the old mill site, the ancient burying ground, across the valley, on, on until its waters finally mingle with those of the mighty Potomac.

At the foot of the mountain down whose rocky side this stream has made such a noisy descent, there are a few not-too-well-kept dwellings and farm buildings owned and occupied by typical country folk of that region. All save one of those dwellings appear to have been erected within the last half century. No traces of other similar pioneer buildings remain to tell the story of those who braved the dangers and privations of that region, and sowed the seeds of civilization at that early day.

The outward appearance of this particular dwelling -- a gaunt two-story structure built of hewn logs, indicated that the storms of more than a hundred winters, and the hot sun of as many summers had done their bit toward reducing it to those elements from whence it came. And now it stands alone, a mute reminder of another day, apparently issuing a challenge to those elemental destroyers of its fellows. Were inanimate things endowed with the power of speech, what stories...what scenes with its walls might this harbinger of the past relate.

Within the memory of those yet living, there stood at the rear of this ancient building, a chimney of high proportions, built of rough stones evidently gathered from the neighboring fields. This chimney, tradition tells us, was part of a fort or stronghold which served as a refuge in times of threatened danger from the Indians. Perhaps upon more than one occasion the terror-stricken inhabitants of the valley had hurried to this refuge, and huddled around the blazing logs, in this same fireplace had cooked their food, and of molten lead had made the bullets with which to defend themselves from the howling savages without. A farm cellar now occupies the site of the legendary fort, and a garden fence has been built of the stones that comprised the chimney.

A few dozen feet from the old log dwelling can still be plainly seen the remains of the millrace to which the aforementioned mountain stream once lent a portion of itself for the purpose of turning the mill wheel. At the bottom of the race, almost covered with earth, there lies a hug iron-bound stone burr which was used in crushing the grain. These, and the traditions surrounding its memory, are all that remain of the "Old Brake Mill," a once-busy-and-necessary institution.

Not far from the site of the mill there are yet visible some slight traces of another supposedly necessary institution of that day -- the distillery. This building too, as well as its one-time busy operators, has long since gone the way of all the earth. In its heyday this was a busy place making and dealing out to thirsty souls that fiery potion which not only drives dull cares away, but hastens the journey from the cradle to the grave.

Across the narrow country road, and within sight of the old log dwelling, enclosed by a few strands of broken and rusted barbed wire, is the family burying ground. A few white and badly weathered gravestones rear their heads above a thick growth of weeds and briars as though standing guard over the remains of those mortals who lie beneath in their last long sleep. The inscriptions on the stones are barely legible. This ancestral "City of the Dead" presents indeed a pitiful picture of neglect, and from all appearances, in a few more years the spot will be forever lost to future generations.

Jacob Brake Sr. and his wives are probably buried in this cemetery which is located across the road and about 100 yards back in a barn lot. In 1942, Mrs. E.C. (Dora H.) Brake of Petersburg, WV, wrote to Linnie Cunningham. She speaks of finding two small badly eroded tombstones with the following inscriptions: J.B. dc 1808 and C.B. dc Mar 31, 1815. There is a difference of one year in the death record and the tombstone date of Catherine's death. However, on a badly eroded stone a 6 could be easily mistaken for a 5. A 1994 clearing and search of the cemetery by Robert Gordon Brake, Lloyd Wallace Brake, and George Edward Brake did not reveal these stones.

A SECOND VERSION OF THE STORY ABOVE

Information from:

Border Settlers of Northwestern Virginia ...McWhorter... Pg. 296-308-313
 West Virginians in the Revolution...Johnston, pg. 146
 The Brake Family in West Virginia...L. Cunningham (LDS Fam. Hist. Lib., Salt Lake City, Utah-Microfilm #0983673 item 12.)
 The Genealogies of the Jackson, Junkin & Morrison Families... M. I. Shoop
 Information from: Carl Reger, 7222 SE 119 Pl., Belleview, FL 34420
 Colonel Edward Jackson 1759-1828, Revolutionary Soldier (grandfather of Jonathan : "Stonewall" Jackson)...compiled by Nancy Ann Jackson, PH.D. and Linda Brake Meyers in 1995. (I have updated my information Aug 1996 according to this book because I am familiar with Linda Brake Meyers and believe that this is the best documented information I have to date.)
 Brake Graveyard on South Fork Road information from Perry (Buzz) Brake, 5416 60th Ave. Ct. W, University Place, WA 98467 (near Tacoma, Washington), descendant of Johan Jacob Brake Jr. through son, Isaac. Buzz's e-mail address: pudlJumper1@attbi.com (6/03)
 The Brake Family of West Virginia by David Armstrong. Given as part of a speech at the Brake reunion in Clarksburg, West Virginia, 7 Aug 1993.
 Land Records, Hampshire Co. (now Hardy Co.), Virginia/West Virginia, 5 May 1763 (purchased from Peter Reed) and Land Record, Hampshire Co. (now Hardy Co.), Virginia/West Virginia, 19 June 1771. (Both land records DOC. #175 & #176 are in the Document File of Annette (Strange) Carroll (Land Record of Indenture, DOC. #176, shows the purchase price in "current money of Virginia" and also a "rental of One Ear Of Corn". The reason for the rent is unclear on the record.)

Land Records from the Land Office of Patents & Grants/Northern Neck Grants & Surveys, Hardy Co., VA/WV pg. 356-357, 21 Nov., 1793, DOC. #181. (Record is housed in the Archives of the Library of Virginia.)

Description:

"114 acres adjoining his own land and extending up Reeds Run towards Cacapehon Mountain and on the east side of the South Fork of the South Branch of Potomack River."

Johan Jacob Brake Will Inventory, 1809. (DOC. #177 in the Document File of Annette (Strange) Carroll)

Information from Linda Brake Meyers, e-mail address: lbmeyers@byronil.net 6/03

.....
 Original language and spelling used in the following:

IN 1863, WEST VIRGINIA WAS VIRGINIA.

In the book, "Colonel Edward Jackson 1759-1828, Revolutionary Soldier (grandfather of Jonathan : "Stonewall" Jackson)...compiled by Nancy Ann Jackson, PH.D. and Linda Brake Meyers in 1995, Linda writes (pg. 37), "Oral history tells us that Jacob Brake Sr. was married twice and that his first wife, Miss Nyeswanan, was killed by the Indians during the Battle of the Trough, which took place on the South Branch (of the Potomac in WV) in April, 1756. Thanks to researchers, Harriet and Jack Piper, who have diligently searched the court house records of Frederick Co., VA and Hardy and Hampshire Co., WV and to David Armstrong of Elkins, WV, who has assisted in this search, we can comfortably conclude that Maria Elizabetha Kieffer/ Cooper was the first wife of Jacob Brake, Sr. (I have him as Johan Jacob Brake, Jr. in my records). They may have married in Frederick Co., VA, but probably the marriage took place in PA, prior to the Cooper's immigration to VA around 1750.

Maria Elizabeth Kieffer was born in Oberacker, Germany on 6 Oct. 1730. She immigrated to America with her parents, Johann (Hans) Jacob and Anna Maria (Dellinger) Kieffer. The family arrived in Philadelphia from London in 1732 on the ship, "Samuel". Passenger lists include the following family members: Frederick Keffer, age 49, Leonhard Keffer, age 27, Jacob Kiffer, age 27, Maria Kefferin, age 46, Elizabeth Kefferin, age 18 and Maria Kefferin, age 23. The Kieffer name was probably anglicized to Cooper with the family's move to VA from PA around 1750"

Johan Jacob Jr., sometimes known as "the Baron" lived and died on his land 15 miles from Moorefield, Hardy County, West Virginia, and is buried in the Brake Graveyard on South Fork Road, also 15 miles from Moorefield and across the road from the old log cabin on farmland. This land was originally part of the Brake land, but now is owned privately. Jerry and Annette Carroll viewed this graveyard and the Brake Falls on Dumpling Run in October, 1998. (see below)

Johan Jacob Brake Jr. immigrated from Germany prior to the beginning of the American Revolution with his family (possibly before 1750). He married (1) Maria Elizabeth Kieffer/Cooper probably in Pennsylvania. He was living in Frederick County, Virginia on Cedar Creek at the time of the Battle of Trough in 1756. The exact date Johan Jacob left Frederick County and took up residence on the South Fork remains uncertain. The evidence

presented shows him in Frederick County through 7 Sep 1762. Johan Jacob purchased his South Fork property, Lot #1, 640 acres, on 6 May 1763 from Peter Haas. It was a "Lease and Release" Indenture. The Lease portion mentions the sum of "5 Shillings Current Money of Virginia and the Release portion mentions the sum of "One Hundred and Eighty Pounds Current Money of Virginia". In this Indenture, he is called "Jacob Brechtel" The mill that has been on the property then became Brake's Mill. This property had originally been owned by Peter Reed. It had been granted to him from the Lord Proprietor of the Northern Neck of Virginia in Sept 1749 and then purchased by Peter Haas (see Grant Book G, pg. 312, 680 acres, Hardy Co., Map 8970, Gr. 130). Peter Haas purchased the land from Peter Reed by deeds of Lease and Release in 1753 and recorded in the county court of Augusta, Virginia. In the Indenture selling the land to Jacob Brechtel on May 5, 1763 and completed May 10, 1763, the land is described as "Lot #1. Upon the South Fork of the Wappacomo or Great South Branch of Potowmack River".

The Land Indenture goes on to describe the boundaries of the land including these words: "Beginning at a Box Oak and Hickory standing in the Boundary Line about Twenty Poles above a large Spring on the West Side of the said South Fork in a Hollow of the Mountains" etc. The Lease portion of this Indenture states that Johan Jacob was to pay the rent of "One Pepper Corn" . The Release portion was signed the same day as the Lease portion (May 10, 1763).

This property on the South Branch of the South Fork of the Potomac 16 miles from Moorefield at Brake's Falls was where the Brake family made their home for years. Johan Jacob's first wife, Mary Elizabeth, was killed when their son, Jacob, was captured by the Indians.

Johan Jacob Brake Jr. married secondly, Catherine Stump. They had one child, Michael. Jacob and Catherine are probably buried in Brake Cemetery on the South Branch. In the fall of 1998, Herbert and Annette Carroll visited the land and Cemetery where the Brakes are buried. Field stones seem to mark their burial sites as there are no clearly readable gravestones with their names on them. There were, however, some with initials. The Brake land and graveyard is located 15 miles from Moorefield on South Fork Road. An original log cabin which had belonged to Leonard Brake is there with a newer structure attached. It had served as a Post Office at one time. The graveyard is located across the road, behind and to the right of a farm shed. The owners of the farm were very kind to open their gate and let us in to view the gravestones. One week earlier, other Brake descendants, Perry "Buzz" Brake and his cousins, had come to see the graveyard and because it was so overgrown with weeds, had cleaned it up. We could easily see the stones because of their hard work. Brake Falls along with the Leonard Brake cabin with a newer structure attached are located on the Brake Land, across the road from the Brake Graveyard.

The following description of Brake Falls, Graveyard and Cabin is taken from Linnie Louisa Brake Cunningham's manuscript, "The Brake Family In West Virginia", published in 1946:
From the summit of one of those picturesque mountains which traverse the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, in what is now Hardy County, there emerges from some subterranean fountain, a rivulet of clear, cold water. At first it is only a wobbly little stream and lies quietly for a time in the swampy grassy bed into which Mother Nature has so unceremoniously precipitated it. Very soon however, this little new-born stream begins and cautiously wriggles toward the brow as though seeking a glimpse of the scene below. Apparently satisfied with the view, it at once begins a headlong descent down the mountain side. Having once started down the steep decline there is no turning back; so on it goes, gathering momentum with each bound. Wild flowers and ferns nod and beckon as they seek to moisten their foliage in its spray; the wild things of the wood timidly approach its banks, then scurry away to cover, as though giving an invitation to game of tag or hid-and-see. But none of these attractions deter this plucky little stream, or swerve it exploring the wonders of the world into which it so recently has entered. So on and on it goes, leaping and bounding from boulder to boulder, beaten and buffeted, whipped into spray, until at last it plunges into a rocky bed at the foot of the mountain.
Perhaps now in this quiet retreat our battered little stream can be content to stop for a time and furnish a hiding place for the frightened minnow which that barefoot urchin seeks to ensnare; or a cool drink for that thirsty dog which we see approaching; but not so; as though not satisfied with its recent acrobatics, it rushes across the narrow country road, on past the old mill site, the ancient burying ground, across the valley, on, until it waters finally mingle with those of the mighty Potomac.
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The outward appearance of this particular dwelling -- a gaunt two-story structure built of hewn logs, indicated that the storms of more than a hundred winters, and the hot sun of as many summers had done their bit toward reducing it to those elements from whence it came. And now it stands alone, a mute reminder of another day, apparently issuing a challenge to those elemental destroyers of its fellows. Were inanimate things endowed with the power of speech, what stories...what scenes with its walls might this harbinger of the past relate.

Within the memory of those yet living, there stood at the rear of this ancient building, a chimney of high proportions, built of rough stones -- evidently gathered from the neighboring fields. This chimney, tradition tells us, was part of a fort or stronghold which served as a refuge in times of threatened danger from the Indians. Perhaps upon more than one occasion the terror-stricken inhabitants of the valley had hurried to this refuge, and huddled around the blazing logs, in this same fireplace had cooked their food, and of molten lead had made the bullets with which to defend themselves from the howling savages without. A farm cellar now occupies the site of the legendary fort, and a garden fence has been built of the stones that comprised the chimney.

A few dozen feet from the old log dwelling can still be plainly seen the remains of the millrace to which the aforementioned mountain stream once lent a portion of itself for the purpose of turning the mill wheel. At the bottom of the race, almost covered with earth, there lies a hug iron-bound stone burr which was used in crushing the grain. These, and the traditions surrounding its memory, are all that remain of the "Old Brake Mill," a once-busy-and-necessary institution.

Not far from the site of the mill there are yet visible some slight traces of another supposedly necessary institution of that day -- the distillery. This building too, as well as its one-time busy operators, has long since gone the way of all the earth. In its heyday this was a busy place making and dealing out to thirsty souls that fiery potion which not only drives dull cares away, but hastens the journey from the cradle to the grave.

Across the narrow country road, and within sight of the old log dwelling, enclosed by a few strands of broken and rusted barbed wire, is the family burying ground. A few white and badly weathered gravestones rear their heads above a thick growth of weeds and briars as though standing guard over the remains of those mortals who lie beneath in their last long sleep. The inscriptions on the stones are barely legible. This ancestral "City of the Dead" presents indeed a pitiful picture of neglect, and from all appearances, in a few more years the spot will be forever lost to future generations.

In 1771, Jacob Brake Jr. purchased 200 acres of land from James Jones on a fork of a South Branch of the Little Springs for "Five Shillings Current Money of Virginia". He sold it in 1775 to John Wolf and his 2nd wife's (Catherine) name appears. In 1778, together with Anthony Reger, he purchased the estate of Mark Swadley in what is now Pendleton Co., West Virginia (Virginia). A copy of the 1771 Indenture (Land Record) is in the document file of Annette (Strange) Carroll.

The Revolutionary War was almost over when the home of Johan Jacob Brake Jr. became the center of an uprising of people who were Tory sympathizers (people who had sympathy with the English instead of the Americans). Johan Jacob and his son, Isaac, along with John Claypole and others were taken as prisoners and tried and convicted in Romney, VA on June 21, 1781 by Justice Thomas Bryan Martin, nephew to Lord Fairfax. They were bound over to the Grand Jury in November of 1781 when a petition that was prepared was taken into consideration. Johan Jacob and Isaac were pardoned and returned home to rebuild their lives.

"The Allegheny Frontier"Rice, pg. 112 states: 21 May 1781; Two Militia men taken prisoner at John (Johan Jacob) Brake's Mill, whose home was a frequent meeting place for insurgents. ("Loyalists/Tories" were those who were loyal to English rule.)

Between 1784 and the 1790 Federal Census, Johan Jacob had built his estate up to where he had 4 other buildings besides his home. There was a Grist Mill, a distillery, probably a barn for animals and probably a silo to store wheat or oats after harvest.

Two of Johan Jacob Brake's children, Elizabeth and Abraham, married a brother and sister of Edward Jackson who married (1) Mary "Polly" Hadden. Edward Jackson was the grandfather of Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson, 1824-1863, through his son, Jonathan and wife, Julia Beckwith (Neale) Jackson. Edward Jackson's father and mother were John and Elizabeth (Cummins) Jackson.

An Advertisement in the Virginia Gazette dated July 25, 1775:
RUN AWAY FROM THE SUBSCRIBER, ON THE SOUTH FORK OF THE SOUTH BRANCH, IN HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, A SERVANT MAN NAMED JOHN YOUNG, AN ENGLISHMAN. HE TOOK

WITH HIM A LINSAY FROCK, LISPS IN HIS SPEECH, STOOPS VERY MUCH WHEN HE WALKS, AND HIS HAIR CLIPPED ON HIS FOREHEAD....ALSO TWO NEGRO MEN, ONE NAMED JOE WITH A LINSEY FROCK AND OTHER CLOTHES USUAL FOR A LABOURING SLAVE. HE RAN AWAY BEFORE, AND WAS TAKEN UP AT PORT ROYAL, TO WHICH PLACE IT IS PROBABLE HE INTENDS AGAIN. THE OTHER NEGRO IS NAMED DICK, WITH THE SAME KIND OF APPAREL THAT JOE HAD, AND ONE OF HIS FEET IS MUCH LONGER THAN THE OTHER. THEY TOOK WITH THEM A RIFLE AND AMMUNITION, A LARGE BUCK-SKIN AND ELK-SKIN DRESSED, AND A TOW SHEET AND BAG.....WHOEVER BRINGS THE SAID SERVANT TO ME, OR SECURES HIM SO THAT I MAY GET HIM, SHALL HAVE 40 S. REWARD, BESIDES WHAT THE LAW ALLOWS; AND WHOEVER BRINGS ME THE SAID NEGROES SHALL HAVE WHAT THE LAW ALLOWS.

JACOB BRAKE

I FOREWARN ALL PERSONS FROM HARBOURING THEM AND MASTERS OF VESSELS FROM CARRYING THEM OFF THE CONTINENT.

Johan Jacob Brake Jr.'s Will Inventory is below, but, according to Linda Brake Meyers, a Brake Descendant, his Will has never been found because someone tore it from the ledger.

Johan Jacob Brake Will Inventory:
Estate Sale for Jacob BRAKE, Sr. (1809)

Johan Jacob Brake, Sr. died in late 1808 or early 1809. The administration of his estate was granted to Geo. Simon. An itemized sale bill of his personal property was recorded in Hardy Co., WV on 10 Feb. 1809. The Sale Bill of Jacob Brake, deceased

	Lb.	Shilling	Pence	
John Dasher				2
Abram Simon				3
Caleb Peacock			6	9
Jacob Sites				16
Do			6	
Caleb Peacock			1	1
Jacob Idleman			1	6
Jacob Rohrbough				3
Leonard Stump Jr.		1	3	
Jacob Sites			7	
Michael Brake				3
Do				5
Leonard Stump Jr.				3
Abram House				7
George Jordan				1 7
Jacob Draise Jr.		2	3	
Do			1	
Do				10
Caleb Peacock				1
John Dasher		9	6	
Maryann Ratcliff				16 4
James Morrow				4
Silas Morrow			5	
George Simon				13
Jacob Sites				10
Do				10
Leonard Stump				1 4
Daniel Sites		2	6	
George Mongold				2
Widow Brake		1	2	5
Jacob Ildeman				2
Michael Brake		1	3	

Jacob Rohrbough to one book case 6
 John Harness to one piece of harness leather 6 3
 William Ratcliff to two pieces of upper leather 15 6
 Leonard Stump to one pair of sheep shears 3 1
 George Glaze to some books 10 8
 Daniel Sites to one pair sheep shears 3 1
 Caleb Peacock to one Bible 2 9 1
 Christiana Dasher to three books 16 6
 John Shook to one shotgun and pouch 1 1 6
 Henry Kessel to one cheer (chair) 6
 Michael Harness to one saddle and bridle 3 6
 Do to one pair of boots 3
 George Mongold to some crock ware 1
 Do to some crock ware 1
 Jacob Rohrbough to some tin ware 2
 Daniel Sites to one coffee mill 5
 William Ratcliff to one candle molds and sundry 5 5
 James Morrow to two pair of silver buckles 2 6
 Jacob Sites to one buckle and pincers 13 6
 Jacob Rohrbough to one key and sundry 3 6
 Christiana Simon to one pot 7
 John Dasher to one skillet 4
 George Mongold to one sifter 1 6
 Jacob Dasher to one kettle 1 5
 John Shirk to one copper do 18
 William Ratcliff to one crout cutter 2
 John Alkin to two forks 2
 Do to one box of iron 1 1
 Jacob Sites to one bushel iron 16 1
 George Mongold to 3 plow shares 12
 Jacob Morson to one mallock and shovel 58
 Widow Brake to one pot hummel 7 1
 William Ratcliff to four augurs 2 6
 John Shirk to three corn hoes 3 6
 Caleb Peacock to one cleavis and chissel 3 10
 Michael Brake to one pot trammel 9
 John Dasher to one drawing knife 3 1
 Michael Brake to one crow bar 12
 Abraham House to one __hook wedge 4 3
 William Ratcliff to one axe 10 7
 Daniel Sites to one axe and hatchet 2
 Do to one Do 2 5
 Harmon Shook to one big saw 15
 Abraham House to one hand saw and sundries smudge
 Silas Phillips to one log chain and sundries 10 6
 Sigman Our to two bells 1 9
 John Brake to one crow bar 13 3
 Jacob Sites to some old iron 1 7 7
 Caleb Peacock to two double trees 1 3
 Do to one plow 13 3
 John Alkin to one iron tooth harrow 13 9
 Valentine Cooper to two wagon tires 1 11 11
 Jacob Draise Jrn. to two do 1 12
 Do to one do 1 4 6
 Abraham House to one apple mill and trough 15
 Valentine Cooper to one still and tubs 7
 John Dasher to one grind stone 9
 Michael Brake to 8 geese 12 6
 John Harness to 6 sheep 2 8 6

Silas Phillips	to one cow	2	11
George Stump Jr.	to one cow	3	5
George Neff Jr.	to one mare	6	
Widow Brake	to one mare	5	10
Leonard Stump	to two hogsheds	12	1
Do	to one barrel and one bedstead	2	2
George Mongold	to one pair of steelyards	9	9
Michael Brake	to one Hogshhead	6	
Do	to four chairs	2	
Do	to one bench		3
Jesse Stump	to one gun augur	1	4
Leonard Stump	to one table	4	
John Harness	to one dresser	5	3
Benjamin Simon	to one jug	4	4
John Stump	to one jug	2	
John Skirk	to one ?	1	6
Widow Brake	to one bed and bedstead	9	6
Do	to one blanket	1	10
John Shirk	to one bed and bedstead	5	2 1
George Stump 3rd	to one bed and bedstead	4	8 2
Widow Brake	to one chest	6	
John Shook Jr.	to one chest		8
Peter Sines	to one cloth	1	3 3
John Shook Jr.	to one coat and shirt	7	6
William Ratcliff	to one jacket and breeches	2	2
Caleb Peacock	to one coat and jacket		11
John Shook	to breeches jacket and cap	11	1
Do	to coat and breeches	3	4
Do	to one coat and sundries		6
Leonard Stump Jr.	to one tub		4
George Mongold	to two tubs	3	6
Do	to one do		1
Do	to one grindstone		9

signed by George Simon

At a court held for Hardy County the 14th day of June 1809 this account of sales of the Estate of Jacob Brake dec'd was returned and ordered to be recorded.

Teste: Ed Williams.

In obedience to an order of the worshipful court of Hardy County to us directed we have examined the sale Bill and Vouchers to us produced by George Simon adm of Jacob Break decd and do find it as follows:

amount of sale bill	\$ 314.86
Michael Brakes obligation payable in different ___total	3133.33
John Calso ? and Isaac Brakes Debt	30.79
Cash and Cobb? dollars	220.00

	\$ 3639.98
Expended in funeral charges	20.59
For Admis services	110.00

	130.59

	\$ 3568.39

We also find a note of Peter Shook as per appears bill ten dollars to have been paid. Then appears to be in the

administrators hand after paying the foregoing sums to be due the Estate of Jacob Breake, dec'd, the sum of three thousand five hundred and sixty eight dollars and thirty nine cents when ever the same becomes due upon the obligation of Michael Brake which is in the hands of the administrator. Given under our hands this 5th day of November 1810.

Abel Seymour
John Crayon

In obedience to an order of the Worshipful county court of Hardy to the undersigned directed we have this day re-examined and settled the Estate of Jacob Brake decd as produced by George Simon the administrator of said Jacob Estate and find it as follows to wit.

The amount of the sale Bill is	\$314.86
Michael Brake's obligations not due	2933.33
John Colp note	4.17
Isaac Brake Debt	26.62
Cash and Cobb dollars	220.00

	\$3498.98
taxes, clk notes, funeral expense cryer	31.99
admis commission	110.00

	141.99

	3356.99
Widow's third	1118.99

	\$ 2238.00

By the above statement it appears that there remains in the administrators hands after payment of Debts expenses this commission the sum of three thousand three hundred and fifty six dollars and ninety nine cents which after deducting the widows third (which is eleven hundred and nineteen dollars and fifty seven cents) there remains due unto the heirs of Jacob Brake Two thousand two hundred and thirty eight dollars when the same may become due upon Michael Breake's obligations all of which is respectfully submitted to the worshipful court Given under our hands this 10th day of November 1812

\$2230.00

John Craigen A. Seymour

At a court continued and held for Hardy County the 12th day of November 1812.

This amount of the settlement of the administration of the Estate Jacob Breake decd was this day returned and ordered to be recorded.

Teste

Ed. Williams Cty Clk

The following statement was made by Linda Brake Meyers in an e-mail to Annette Carroll 8/00:

"I personally think that all the avenues have been exhausted where the Brake family is concerned in Frederick and Hardy counties, unless some unknown resource surfaces. This is doubtful. Hampshire County is a burned county and lots of the records are lost. Hardy County records have been searched and searched to no avail. Something could still show up in Frederick County as those records are still being extracted".

Linda would certainly know about the availability of records, she did much research when writing the book, "Colonel Edward Jackson, Rev. Soldier" with Nancy Jackson which includes the Brake line.

More About JOHN JACOB BRAKE:

Also Known As: Jacob Brake, Sr.

Tithables: 1781, Hampshire County, Virginia, list of tithables shows no slaves, 12 cattle, and 14 horses.

More About JOHN BRAKE and MARIA COOPER:

Marriage: Abt. 1750, Germany

More About CATHERINE STUMP:

Burial: Apr 1816, Brake Cemetery, Brake (Unincorporated), Hardy Co, WV

Fact 1: Born Maria Catharina Stump, in Germany

More About JOHN BRAKE and CATHERINE STUMP:

Marriage: Bef. 1779

Children of JOHN BRAKE and MARIA COOPER are:

- i. MARY MAGDALENE "MODLIN"⁴ BRAKE², b. 03 Jun 1751, Frederick County, VA, USA³; d. 08 Aug 1839, Muskingham Co, OH; m. (1) JOHN STUMP, 1771; b. Abt. 1750; m. (2) JOHN REGER, Aft. 1772; b. 17 Apr 1750, Virginia; d. 27 Aug 1833, Muskingham Co, OH.

More About MARY MAGDALENE "MODLIN" BRAKE:

Burial: Stump/Tanner Cemetery, Muskingham Co, OH, but later moved to Irville Cemetery, Muskingham Co, OH

More About JOHN STUMP and MARY BRAKE:

Marriage: 1771

More About JOHN REGER:

Burial: 1833, Irville Cemetery, Licking Township, Muskingham Co, OH

More About JOHN REGER and MARY BRAKE:

Marriage: Aft. 1772

- ii. JACOB BRAKE, b. Abt. 1754, Frederick County, VA, USA; d. 1831, Buckhannon, Lewis now Upshur Co, WV; m. MARY SLAUGHTER, 1785; b. Abt. 1755; d. 1830.

Notes for JACOB BRAKE:

Richwood News Leader May 1, 1957

"Jacob Brake And The Indians"

By H. E. Matheny

Captivity and life among the Indians was an interesting topic of conversations among the backwoodsmen. When an account of Indian captivity appeared in print, it was usually reprinted many times and had a wide circulation. One of the most interesting captivities relating to Western Virginia was that of Jacob Brake. Except for a brief mention in one account little seems to be known of him.

The Brake family was among the first settlers in Western Virginia. When Washington visited the South Branch Valley in 1748 he made notes on the settlement and mentioned the grist mill owned by Peter Reed. When or how the Brake family came into the picture is not known. Soon after that the locality was known as Brakes' mill. The records of the county have been lost or destroyed for that period.

Original Settler

Kercheval, in his history of the valley, states the original Brake settler was named John. There is no other mention of this name and in the last few years evidence has been produced to indicate his name may have been John Jacob.

Jacob Brake, Jr. was the Indian captive. During the French and Indian war, the Indians were raging the South Branch of the Potomac, burning homes and killing every one that could not defend himself. When they approached Brake's mill, they found the men away from the house. Mrs. Brake must have had some knowledge of their coming for in some way she hid three of her children and they escaped the Indians. There is a tradition in the family that she dropped her youngest child in a thicket and it escaped. Mrs. Brake was killed and scalped. Jacob Brake was eleven years old at this time (1758) and was taken captive. Three of the Indians were brothers and had lost a fourth at a previous battle at Romney, and the captive was to take the place of the brother that had been killed. One of the men had Mrs. Brake's scalp tied to his belt, and with this bloody trophy of war in front of his eyes, the son made the long march to north-western Ohio. He later stated the expedition was three months returning to the homes of the Indians. He was treated kindly on the trip as he

was to be adopted into the family of the fallen Indian.

Escapes

Arriving at their destination, a celebration was held and Jacob was beaten when he ran the gauntlet. He finally escaped to the wigwam of his foster mother and was protected by her. Later elaborate ceremonies took place for the adoption. Not all the captives of that time were that lucky. A short time after Jacob was adopted, another boy was brought into camp. He was stupid and could not get along with his captors. The boy was sent after some horses that had wandered away. After the third day's unsuccessful search, he was taken into the woods and killed. It is a curious fact that boy captives soon learned to like their life with the Indians. Even with his mother's scalp hanging in the wigwam, Jacob enjoyed the outdoor life and he acquired characteristics that never left him for the rest of his life. In the same camp were three white women who had been captured while small. They seemed to be satisfied and stated they did not want to return to their own people. They had forgotten their own language and ways and were Indian in every way except color.

Jacob was a strong boy and soon became a favorite of the camp. He enjoyed wrestling and was soon champion of his class. On one occasion he threw another boy in the fire and nearly lost his life. The Indian crawled out of the fire with hot coals sticking to his back. He watched for an opportunity and threw his tomahawk at the captive and Jacob later stated "it was too close for comfort."

Another Accident

Several years after he had been captured, he nearly lost his life in another incident. A boy from another camp invited Jacob to accompany him on a hunting expedition. He had wounded three deer the previous day and wanted to find them if possible. Jacob's Indian mother objected, saying the other boy intended to kill him, and had a bad reputation. She was over ruled and the boy went into the forest. Two of the deer were found dead and partly eaten by the wolves. The third deer was found and killed. While skinning the deer, Jacob accidentally struck the Indian with a leather strap and the short tempered boy attempted to kill him. Jacob had taken the precaution to keep his gun handy and, pointing it at the Indian, ordered him to take his share of the meat and go home. He later stated to his family he would have tried to escape at that time if there had been no snow on the ground.

He soon learned to brag like the other Indians, and on one occasion it nearly got him in trouble. He challenged another boy to a foot race, stating he could beat him with a rail on his shoulder. He won the race but made another enemy.

On one of their raids, the Indians captured some cows. Jacob was the only one who knew how to milk them and fell heir to the job. A Bible was also brought into camp and given to the boy, as he was the only one who could read it. He had learned his letters in the South Branch Valley School and could figure out the words. He later stated his only education was obtained in reading his Bible while with the Indians. That was probably the one thing that kept reminding him he was a white man. While he enjoyed the life of the wild men, he never gave up the idea of returning home.

First Contact

After the treaty of 1763, Jacob made his first contact with the white people of the east. A trader found him with a small band of Indians on a hunting expedition on White Woman's creek and promised to inform his family.

White Woman's creek is a tributary of the Muskingum River in Ohio. Christopher Gist stated it was named for an Indian captive by the name of Mary Harris. She was captured about 1710 by the French and Indians and was ten years old at the time. Gist saw her in 1750 and said she was about fifty years old. She had married an Indian and had several children.

Pontiac went on the war path and stopped all communication with the east and it was not until after the restoration of peace in 1765 that Jacob was able to see another trader who sent word to his people.

Jacob's brother, John, immediately hired the trader to go with him to Pittsburgh and make arrangements for the return of the captive. The previous treaty with the Indians stated all captives were to be returned. John arrived at Pittsburgh a month before the deadline set for the return of the captives and, being impatient, he and the trader pushed on into the Indian country. When they arrived in camp, they found Jacob was to have left the following day on a hunting expedition. This was their annual fall hunt and would have lasted several weeks, and if John had been two days later, it is doubtful if the rescue could have been carried out at that time. John had no trouble getting Jacob's release. However, he had to leave his pony with the Indians. It was not near the camp and John thought it best to not delay their departure.

Scalp?

We wonder what they did with their mother's scalp. Was it taken with them back to the settlement or left with the savages?

Life with the Indians had spoiled Jacob. He was glad to be back with his people but did not get along with them. He was moody and would not talk to anyone if he could help it. He tried to wear shoes once but almost immediately removed them, and from that time on made his own moccasins. He could move through the woods as silently as an Indian. He had acquired a mean disposition and would fly into a rage over some imagined insult.

Life in the settlement in the valley soon became unbearable, and Jacob headed for the Ohio valley. It is evident he had no intention of returning to the Indians, for he made some sort of a clearing and settlement at what is now Buckhannon in Upshur county in 1776. In 1781 a certificate was issued to him for four hundred acres of land to include his settlement made in 1776. The Indians had been troublesome and he was unable to stay at his settlement. He returned to the South Branch valley, to the old homestead of his father.

Jacob Jr.

It is not known just what part Jacob Jr. had in the Tory uprising in the South Branch valley. Some seem to think he had no part at all, and the Jacob Brake mentioned in the Calendar of Virginia state papers was Jacob Sr. The son did serve his country in the Revolutionary War. His war records have been lost but the pension application of John Cutright states he served under Lieutenant Jacob Brake.

When Jacob was a captive he learned of a large deposit of copper in the wilderness. The Indians had carefully concealed the fact from the whites but the captive knew of it. In later life a company organized to mine the copper, and Jacob Brake was promised a large part of the enterprise for showing them the location of the mine.

When near the location of the deposit of copper, he became suspicious of the character of his companions and refused to show them the location of the deposit. His companions searched for the location but never found it. In later life, Brake returned to the location of the mine, but because of the changed condition of the country, it could not be found. The Indian brothers of Jacob made at least one raid into the Buckhannon settlement after the release of the captive. Two white men were killed in this raid. Jacob was not in the settlement at the time, but when he was given a description of the savages, he stated they were his Indian brothers and he could have prevented the massacre if he had been present. This raid occurred in 1781 or 1782.

In 1785 he married Mary Slaughter, the brother of Jesse Slaughter. Little is known of her people.

Jacob Brake Sr., believed to be Johann Jacob Brecht, the original settler of the family in the valley, died in 1809 and is buried near the old Brake mill twelve miles south of Moorefield in Hardy County.

Settled in Buckhannon

Jacob Jr. and his wife settled on his farm in north Buckhannon and lived the rest of their lives in that locality. The chimney of their cabin can still be seen. He was one of the five men who organized the Baptist church in Buckhannon that was used as late as 1853. A marble slab marks the spot.

Jacob and Mary had five children; Leah married Major Abram. Reger; Mary Magdalen married Isaac Reger; (name unknown) married Joseph Shreves; Abram married Elizabeth Jackson, and John's wife's name is unknown.

Jacob Brake, the Indian captive, died in 1831 and was buried in the Heavener cemetery near Buckhannon where so many other old Indian fighters were laid to rest. A marble slab marks the location of Jacob and his wife, Mary. At his funeral he was taken to the cemetery by a slave boy by the name of Dick Howard. Sixty years later, this man related the story to Albert R. Brake, a grandson of Jacob. The slave was owned by the Gibson family of Buckhannon. He was forced against his will to take the corpse to the cemetery in a cart drawn by a yoke of oxen.

Members of the Brake family are numerous in West Virginia. They are all descendants of the old Baron of the South Branch valley who raised the flag of Great Britain over his grist mill and defied the infant republic. There is one family of Brakes that cannot be traced today. James Brake was born in the South Branch valley about 1800 and moved to the Buckhannon area. He married Anny Mumford and they had three children,

Nimrod See, Cyrus B., and Jacob B. James was killed about 1825 by a falling tree, and was buried on the Bill Post farm on Turkey Run. No one seems to know who the parents of James were. His wife later married Anson Young.

In later life, Jacob seemed to get along better with his neighbors and forget more of his Indian ways, but his captivity still left its mark on him, as it did on every other captive who returned to the ways of the white man.

Sail (sic) Bill of the Property of Jacob Brake Deceased

Joseph Shreve 6 Pewter Plates 1.08
John B. Brake 1 ditto Bason 0.76
Abram Reger 1 ditto Dish 1.13 ½
W. W. Jackson 1 Bread Server 0.06 ¼
Adam Carper 1 Sausage Stuffer 0.12 ½
John J. Black 2 Tin Buckets 0.44
Daniel Farnsworth 1 Coffee Morter 0.06 ¼
Henry Ours 1 Cedar Bucket 0.22
Ditto 1 Milk Cooler 0.06 ½
John J. Black 1 Ditto (Small) 0.02
Isaac Martin 1 Smoothing Iron 0.11
Isaac Reger 1 Knife box knives & forks 1.75
Ditto 1 Cullender & bread Waiter 0.06 ¼
John Shreve 1 Churn (oak) 0.37 ½
James Black 1 Flesh fork & Coffee Pot 0.19
Ditto 1 Candle Stick 0.06 ¼
Joseph Shreve 1 Lamp 0.27
John J. Black 1 Dutch Oven lid & Bail 2.01
John Dean 1 Frying Pan 0.38
Abram Reger 1 Large Bell 0.27
Anthony Rohrbough 2 Reeds 1.15
Abram Reger 1 Ditto 1.03
Johah Martin 1 Small Bell & Musket Lock 0.25
Christian Simon 1 Pair Sheep Shears 0.80
Riley Reger 2 Small Boxes 0.07
Anthony Rohrbough 3 Boptles & Some Castor Oil 0.43
Nicholas Hevener 1 pair of Shears 0.14
Joseph Shreve 1 Washing Tub 0.50
Isaac Dick 1 Grubbing Hoe 0.70
James Black 1 Pot 1.01
Daniel Farnsworth 1 Wolf Trap 1.34
Jacob Hevener 2 Old Hoes 0.50
Ditto 1 Shovel Plough 1.64
Adam Carper 1 Tub with a Lid 0.06 ¼
Isaac Brake 1 Dutch Scythe & Hand Saw 1.08
Jonah Martin 1 Looking Glass 0.41
Payton Martin 1 Iron Wedge 0.72
Jonah Martin 1 Pair of Stalyards (sp?) 1.41
William Griffith 1 Big Wheel 0.14
Alexander Black 1 Bible 0.07 ¼
Joseph Shreve 1 Testament 0.06 ¼
Ditto 1 Hymn Book 0.13 ½
John Hyre 1 Foot Adze 0.62 ½
William McNutty 1 Chisel 0.19
Adam Carper 1 Tub 0.06 ¼
Abram Reger 1 Spinning Wheel 4.94
Christian Simon 1 Auger (3 quarters) 0.27
John B. Brake 1 Rifle Gun 5.31 ¼
Jeremiah Pough 1 Arm Chair 0.68
Joseph Shreve 5 Towels 0.30
John Dean 2 Chairs 1.04
Joseph Shreve 1 Chair 0.60
Absalom Shreve 1 Chest 2.93

John W. Westfall 1 Table 2.06 ¼
 James Slaughter 1 Slate 0.25
 Abram Reger 1 Set of Weavers Spools 0.86 ¼
 Joseph Shreve 1 Hatchet 1.07
 \William Griffith 1 Barrel 0.09
 James Cumings 1 Loom 1.04
 William Griffith 1 Tub 0.30
 Jacob Hevener 1 Bee Hive 1.50
 Parschal Howel(1) 1 Ditto 0.63
 Josep(h) Shreve 1 Tramel 0.50
 John Shreve 1 Ditto 1.53
 Ditto 1 Large Kettle 3.42
 William McNutty 10 Head of Hogs 8.12 ½
 Joseph Shreve 1 Side Saddle 8.01
 Ditto 1 Base, Bedstead & furniture & Sheets belonging 10.26
 Benjamin Rohrbough 1 Pack Saddle 10.06 ¼
 Parschal Howell 1 Ge__s Saddle 1.03 ¼
 Abram Reger 1 Cow 11.01
 John Morrison 4 Hogs 4.51
 Joseph Shreve 1 Quilt 0.53
 Ditto 1 Table Cloth 0.59
 John J. Black 1 Bottle 0.06 ½
 Daniel Farnsworth 1 Blind Cow 2.00
 John Weatherholts 2 Tubs 0.42
 Joseph Shreve 1 bed & bedstead/1 feather Tick & chaff, ditto, 2 Sheets, 1 coverlet, 2 Pillars 5.07 ½
 Jacob Radabough 1 Colt 5.44
 Thomas Black 1 Bottle 0.12 ½
 John B. Brake 1 Cow 4.50
 John Black 1 Bottle 0.06 ½
 Maryan Kefsel 4 Sheep 3.52

Whole Amount Sold
 (s) W. W. Jackson, Clerk
 Feb. the 24th 1831 \$118.81

List of Articles sold 20th July agreeable to advertisement

Abram Reger 1 Kettle 2.55
 Joseph Liggett 1 Slate 0.12 ½
 Abraham W. Brake 2 Bags 0.20
 Abram Reger 1 Shovel & Dewdle (sp?)_ 0.13 ¼

Sold at Private Sale, to wit...

John B. Brake 1 Bay Mare 35.00
 Abram Reger 1 Bed, bedstead & furniture 10.00
 Abram Reger 1 Old Bridle 00.13
 Jno. Shreve 1 Old Bag 00.12 ½

Total \$167.07 ¼

The and (sic) foregoing is a list of the property sold belonging to the Estate of Jacob Brake deceased.

(s) Abraham W. Brake, Administrator

Lewis County Court September Term 1831 this Sale bill of the personal Estate of Jacob Brake deceased was presented in open Curth and order to be recorded.

Teste
 (s) Jno. Talbott, C.L.C.

From "West Virginians in the Revolution"

Brake, Jacob (Lieutenant)

He was a lieutenant in Captain George Jackson's company of spies or rangers in 1778, according to McWhorter's History. He is also mentioned in a letter from the Commission of Pensions to Mrs. Chester M. Cunningham, 510 Stanley, Ave., Clarksburg, October 19, 1922.

His mother was killed during an Indian raid in 1758, and perhaps during the same raid, Jacob, a lad of 11 years, was captured by the Indians and adopted into the tribe. he remained a captive almost eleven years. He married Mary Slaughter. His death was in 1831.

Deed for the Land upon which Stood
The First Baptist Church in Buckhannon, WV

Copied by Beatrice Arnold Griffin, December 6, 1937

Deed Book C p. 204 Lewis County WV Court House
Recorded: April 1825

This deed, dated April 15, 1825, between, Jacob Brake and his wife, Mary, of the County of Lewis and the State of Virginia, of the first part, and Joseph Davis, Sr., Jacob Hyre, Daniel Farnsworth, John B. Brake, James S. Farnsworth and David J. Jackson, of the same place, as above written, of the other part; Witnessed, that the said Jacob Brake and Mary, for and in consideration of their respect and attachment to the regular Baptist Church, and the sum of \$1.00 paid to them, by the said Joseph Davis, Jacob Hyre, Daniel Farnsworth, John B. Brake, James S. Farnsworth and David J. Jackson, Trustees..... a certain parcel of land, lying in the county of Lewis, on the west side of the Buckhannon River, beginning at a beech and white oak, by the road side, and running N 39 deg. W 17 P to a hickory, thence, S 51 W 13 P to a stake near the run, and on original line of said Brake's survey and within 10 or 12' of a marked white oak, and with the original line S 18 deg. E--P to the road, and thence N 77 deg. E 18 ½ P to the beginning corner, containing 1 acre, (more or less) being the same land on which the Baptist Church, called Buckhannon now stands; to have and to hold the said tract to said Joseph Davis, Jacob Hyre, Daniel Farnsworth, John B. Brake, James S. Farnsworth, and David J. Jackson and their successors and heirs of successors forever--the said Brake and wife--that they will warrant, defend the said tract--with appurtenances, against all persons claiming by, through or under them, the said Brake and wife in trust for the sole use of the Regular Baptist Church of Jesus Christ, called the Buchannon Church and holding the principals contained in the Philadelphia Baptist Confession of Faith, and that the said Joseph Davis, Jacob Hyre, Daniel Farnsworth, John B. Brake and James S. Farnsworth and David J. Jackson, Trustees, doth covenant for themselves and their survivors and heirs of such survivors, to and with the said Brake, that they the above party, do --- their joint lives and that of their survivors, shall herewith --- the members of the said church --- holding the principals aforesaid, to use the said property to erect building, make repairs thereon, and do all acts which a majority of the members as above foresaid, may think necessary for the complete enjoyment of the property, without any hindrance or molestation of the part of the parties aforesaid, --- also that on the request of the majority --- shall convey the said land, to such person or persons as said members shall direct, upon same use and trust as are contained in this conveyance and upon any additional use or trust which a majority may deem necessary to ensure complete enjoyment ---.

Signed by their mark: Jacob Brake
Mary Brake
Joseph Davis
Jacob Hyre.

Signed by own hand: Daniel Farnsworth
John B. Brake
James S. Farnsworth
David J. Jackson

Witnessed by: A.D. Holden (or Holder)
Edward Davis

Names of the Founders of the Baptist Church which was constituted in 1786:

Jacob Hyre
John Hyre
Jacob Brake
John Brake
Major Jackson

More About JACOB BRAKE:

Burial: Heavner Cemetery, Buckhannon, Upshur Co, WV
Census: 1790, Hardy Co, VA: Jacob with four in household
Military service: Served in Revolutionary War as scout and spy. Descendants are eligible for membership in Daughters/Sons of the American Revolution. See application in Scrapbook.
Residence: Hampshire County, VA^f
Tithables: 1781, Hampshire County, Virginia, list of tithables shows no slaves, 3 cattle, and 2 horses.

More About MARY SLAUGHTER:

Burial: Heavner Cemetery, Buckhannon, Upshur Co, WV

More About JACOB BRAKE and MARY SLAUGHTER:

Marriage: 1785

- iii. JOHN B. BRAKE^{5,6}, b. 15 Jun 1754, Frederick County, VA, USA^{7,8}; d. 04 Nov 1838, Clarksburg, WV; m. (1) ELIZABETH WETHERHOLT^{9,10}, 11 Jan 1778, Hampshire Cty, Virginia, USA¹¹; b. 16 May 1762, Lynn Township, Lehigh, Virginia, USA^{12,13}; d. 19 Aug 1835, Hampshire Hardy, West Virginia, USA¹⁴; m. (2) KATHERINE SHOOK¹⁵, 1783, Hardy Co, W(VA); b. 1763, Hampshire, West Virginia, USA¹⁶; d. 07 Feb 1838, Lewis Co, WV.

Notes for JOHN B. BRAKE:

John Brake's daughter, Elizabeth Weatherholt Brake, married Edward Jackson. Edward's daughters, Rachel and Mary, married John Brake's son's, Jacob and Isaac. Thus, John Brake was Edward Jackson's father-in-law, and also the father-in-law of Edward's daughters, Rachel and Mary. Also, John's son, Leonard, married the daughter of Edward's brother, Samuel.

From the typed copy of John Brake's pension application, pg. 68-69. The text: John Brake S. 15762. (the original papers were sent to W. G. Singleton 9 August 1834 and no copies were made.) 8 July 1834. John Brake states he was born in 1754 and lived on the south branch near Moorefield at the commencement of the war. He was drafted for six months, rendezvoused at Romney, marched under Capt. John Harris, Maj. Riddle and Col. Vanmetre to the mouth of Big Beaver and then to Fort McIntosh. Gen. McIntosh had about 2000 men. He stayed there a while and then marched to Tuscarora, aided in building a fort at that place, and returned to McIntosh's Fort and was discharged. Previously he did a tour of duty at Buckhannon Fort, now in Lewis County, Virginia. He visited Buckhannon and while there volunteered under Capt. George Jackson and forted at Jackson's Fort and scouted and followed the Indians when they came into the settlement. He volunteered about the middle of September and served until the middle of February. Col. Giden C. Camdem says Brake told him he hired a substitute. Christopher Nalter [could be Nutter] states Brake was always considered a Tory. Adam Cee, the oldest lawyer in Western Virginia, knew Brake to be a Tory.

John Brake of Harrison County, Virginia, Indian spy in the company of Capt. Harris for one year, was placed on the Virginia pension roll at \$40 per annum under the Act of 1832. Certificate 23559 was issued 28 February 1834. He was dropped from the rolls.

More About JOHN B. BRAKE:

Burial: Jackson Mill Cemetery, Lewis Co, WV
Monument: At Jackson Mill Cemetery says "Sacred to the memory of John Brake, departed this life Nov. 4, 1838 age 84 yr, 4 mo, 21d, Naught so near as death, naught so certain.
Tithables: 1781, Hampshire County, Virginia, list of tithables shows no slaves, 3 cattle, and 6 horses.

More About JOHN BRAKE and ELIZABETH WETHERHOLT:

Marriage: 11 Jan 1778, Hampshire Cty, Virginia, USA¹⁷

Notes for KATHERINE SHOOK:

[MorrisonGedcom.FTW]

She was listed as Elizabeth on Margaret's death certificate.

More About KATHERINE SHOOK:
Burial: Morrison Cemetery, Lewis Co, WV

More About JOHN BRAKE and KATHERINE SHOOK:
Marriage: 1783, Hardy Co, W(VA)

- iv. ELIZABETH BRAKE, b. 22 Feb 1757, Frederick County, VA, USA¹⁸; d. 22 Mar 1812, Zanesville, Muskingham Co, OH; m. GEORGE JACKSON, 13 Nov 1776, Moorefield, WV; b. 1756; d. 1831.

More About GEORGE JACKSON and ELIZABETH BRAKE:
Marriage: 13 Nov 1776, Moorefield, WV

- v. ISAAC BRAKE, b. 1760, Hampshire County, Virginia, USA¹⁹; d. Abt. 1833, Marysville, OH; m. (1) MARY SITES DAVIS; b. Abt. 1756; m. (2) ROSANNA ALMON²⁰, Abt. 1789, Hardy County, W(VA); b. 1770, Hardy, Virginia, USA^{21,22}; d. 1826, Marysville, OH.

Notes for ISAAC BRAKE:

There is a Mary Brake who married William Coffman in Union County in 1829. Is she Isaac's/Rosanna's daughter?

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF ISAAC BRAKE AND HIS WIFE, ROSANNA BRAKE

by Alonzo E. Knox, Raymond, Ohio

The subjects of this sketch were natives of Hardy County, Virginia. The year of 1818 found them quite advanced in years, and parents of two sons and two daughters, grown to manhood and womanhood. Realizing that these children would soon be in need of homes and means of maintenance of homes, and that their only assets were limited to their robust health, strong constitutions and unswerving determinations to do for themselves and their dependents in the way and manner that their Creator would approve, decided that the lands of the unbroken forests were offering much better opportunities to acquire homes and independence than could be found in a country where labor was performed only in involuntary servitude and was looked upon as a disgrace when performed by a white person, decided to bid farewell to their many beloved friends and relatives in their beautiful southern land, and cast their lot with their children in a strange land where their industry and efforts would be considered a credit rather than a disgrace. That these patriarchs were a God-fearing people as evidenced by prominent Biblical names given to their children, viz: Adam, Michael, Sarah and Elizabeth, in the order of their births.

At this time, Sarah was the wife of John Shirk: also a native of Hardy County, and their eldest child, Aaron, who was already eight years old.

In the same county, at this time, were the family of Mordicia Baughan, natives of South Carolina, in which family a brother and sister married into the family of Isaac Brake. Jeremiah became the husband of Elizabeth Brake, and Eve Baughan became the wife of Adam Brake.

Occurrences of this kind, in which a brother and sister of one family would marry a brother and sister of another family became quite common, as in the case of Polly Shirk, a sister of John Shirk, becoming the wife of Michael Brake; the children of such contracting parties becoming doubly related.

In the first mentioned year, the journey to Ohio was undertaken and before giving details of that undertaking, it might be of interest to the younger generation to know the conditions as they existed here at that early time.

Judging from what Colonel Curry has recorded in his "Early History of Union County", we note that but few settlements had yet been made, nearly all in the southern part of the county; that there were no roads better than Indian trails, bridle paths and blazed timber; that the County was organized in the year of 1820; but few mills were in operation at that time where it was possible for the settlers to have a sack of corn cracked; wild turkeys, deer and other game was in abundance and were a source of dependence by the settlers for their sustenance; the howl of the wolf and the scream of the panther ringing through the woods oft times added loneliness to the night; a few Indians were here yet, but mostly friendly; a few settlements had already been made in Liberty Township, along the banks of Mill Creek; the merry ring of axman is beginning to be heard in every direction; cabins being built, land cleared and made ready for civilization. In the year of 1818, the Brake and Shirk families left their southern homes to share the hardships which were sure to follow in the

wilds of Ohio.

After a long and difficult journey, lasting about six weeks, fording many swollen streams and crossing the mountains, their teams and covered wagons at last landed in Ross County, Ohio, where they continued to remain for about two years, before taking another start for parts farther north, finally locating upon lands now owned by John Hamilton in Liberty Township, about one and a half miles south of a point where Peoria now stands and on the Marysville Road. The family of Mordicia Baughan also came at the same time from Ross County, settling a little further north on lands now owned by F.E.Dodge.

Sometime later, Adam Brake located upon lands now owned by Dr.Thompson, just across the road from the cemetery south of Raymond; Jeremiah Baughan remaining upon the farm with his father, the venerable subjects of our sketch, remaining at the home of John Shirk during their remaining days. Thus, it will be seen that quite a large settlement was made in an unbroken timber land by many people so closely connected, and where all continued to live until overtaken by a good and ripe old age. The statement that all, without a single exception, were good and useful citizens and neighbors, has never been challenged; a credit to which their many distant descendants may well point to with pride. While there is much that would be of interest that could be written concerning the many distant descendants of the subjects of this sketch, space forbids much mention being made, other than who the grand-children were-children of Adam, Michael, Sarah and Elizabeth; leaving no mention being made as to whom they married or where they afterward lived.

The children of Adam and Eve (Baughan) Brake were: Isaac, William, Mary, Sarah, George and Amanda; the latter dying before married.

The children of Michael and his wife Polly (Shirk) Brake were: Aaron, Elon, John, Hiram, James, Mary, Michael, Angeline, Emma Jane and Martin.

The children of Sarah and her husband, John Shirk were: Aaron, Betsy, Nancy, Henson, Hiram, Jemima, Alfred, Jonaas, Isaac, Silaas, John, Sarah and Lucy.

The children of Elizabeth and her husband Jeremiah Baughan were: Mary Ann, Delilah, Helen, Elizabeth, Michael, and Elma. (Delilah was my mother.)

Of the many grand-children herein mentioned, many later married and continued to live in their native county during their whole life, while others moved to other and distant places. Yet, so far that is known to be certain, there is but one living at this time (August, 1924), viz: Mrs. Elma Johnson, daughter of Jeremiah and Elizabeth Baughan. While the grand-children of these worthy ancestors have become almost extinct, yet the "great", "great-great", and "greater" is already a legion. While we realize that this narrative should be as brief as possible, yet we are persuaded to believe that it will be of special interest to many of the younger generations to learn the circumstances concerning the strange and unusual death of their venerable ancestor, Rosanna Brake, which occurred in the year of 1826.

It is related by Colonel Curry in his history of the Early Settlers of Union County, that Mrs. Brake became the victim of some strange disease during the latter years of her life; that when she felt these spells coming on, she had a great desire for water; that if she could get the water as soon as she felt the spells coming on, she was always able to ward them off and was soon relieved; that she always observed that in case she could not get water immediately, she believed she would die; that she left the other members of her family at the home of a neighbor where a shooting match was being held one afternoon and started to return to her home, all alone; that upon her failure to return that evening, alarm was sounded and all the neighbors turned out and joined in an all night search. It was not until the next morning before her body was found near some water; that it was the belief by her friends that she was overtaken by one of her strange spells on her way home, but was unable to reach the water in time to save her life. With the aid of this brief narrative, we believe that it will be found possible by many to determine just how closely or how distantly they were related to not only the subjects of this sketch, but to many other families and persons as well.

From "The History of Union County (Ohio)"
W/H. Beers & Co., Chicago, IL. 1883
Chapter on Liberty Twp. P. 385

Isaac Brake

Isaac BRAKE, with his wife Rosanna, natives of Virginia, emigrated to Ross County, Ohio with their family in 1818, remaining there two years. In 1820, they removed to Liberty Township and settled on Mill Creek, being then quite advanced in years. They settled on the farm known as the Joshua JUDY farm where they remained till their deaths.

Mrs. Brake, in her latter years became subject to a peculiar disease and when its attack came on (they generally came suddenly) she felt a desire for water immediately, and that administered, she obtained relief. She had observed that if she should sometime be attacked where she could not readily obtain water, she believed she would die. In that day, shooting matches were a common and legitimate occurrence, and the citizens generally attended them and tried their skill to win the prizes. On one of these occasions, Mrs. and Mr. Brake and family attended, it being nearby at an early hour, Mrs. Brake took her leave and started for home. Subsequently, the balance of them returned home. On their arrival, they found Mrs. Brake had not reached her home and they supposed she had probably called to see one of the neighbors and no anxiety was awakened till a late hour. When upon her not making her appearance, they became anxious and entered upon a search; but no tidings could be obtained of her. Diligent search was made in all directions; "horns" were blown through the woods, and everything done that could be devised to learn of the whereabouts of Mrs. Brake. But not until the next morning was any intelligence received when she was found a short distance from the main road, near some water, and life was extinct. It is believed that on her way home, she had been attacked by her disease and had gone to that place in search of her remedy water and while there, died. This occurred about the year 1826. Mr. Brake died about the year 1833-34.

Their children were as follows; Adam, the oldest son, married Eva BOUGHAN and resided in Liberty Township till his death, May 15, 1870, aged seventy six years; his wife died July 19, 1875, aged sixty six years. Michael, the second son, married Polly SHIRK, both are deceased; their children were, Aaron, Elam, John, Angelina and Mary; Sarah the third child of Isaac and Rosanna BRAKE, married John SHIRK. Elizabeth, the fourth child, married Jeremiah BOUGHAN.

More About ISAAC BRAKE:

Fact 1: 1818, Moved to Marysville, Union Co, OH; buried there.

Info: "The History of Union County, OH" tells of a Mary Brake who was married to William Coffman by William Gladhill in 1929. Adam and Michael Brake were also married by William Gladhill. Could Mary be another sister? Or another name for Susan?

Lived With: 1830, son Michael

More About ISAAC BRAKE and ROSANNA ALMON:

Marriage: Abt. 1789, Hardy County, W(VA)

- vi. ABRAHAM BRAKE^{23,24}, b. Aug 1763, Hampshire Co., now Hardy Co., (West) Virginia; d. 20 Aug 1842, Harrison County, (West) Virginia; m. MARY ELIZABETH JACKSON²⁵, Abt. 1784, Hampshire County, Virginia; b. 23 Feb 1770, Moorefield, Hampshire, Virginia, USA²⁵; d. Abt. 1850, Probably near Dayton, Green County, OH.

Notes for ABRAHAM BRAKE:

Forward From "God's Infinite Variety - An American"

"The American of today lives in such a whirl of events and excitement that it takes the daring and fortitude of our forefathers to cope with the ever changing, overpowering problems of life which confront us. The interesting thing is that in our veins flows the blood, not of one nation, but of many; therefore, we react to life with the characteristics of many people, instead of one, and our industry, pride and shortcomings are blended with a sense of humor, and the ability to understand another's viewpoint, which alone will enable us to overcome our many mistakes and weather the perilous seas ahead.

The simple facts about the loves of our ancestors, the ones who braved high seas, starvation and savages, who fought, bled and died for this country of ours, is a tale more thrilling, more interesting, than any romance.

The following is a true history of the ancestors of one American child. In it I have told the unimportant things, as well as the important, for they are what give the color and the meaning to the facts. I have written it so that this child will know what it means to be a real American, what our obligations are to these wonderful people, whose deeds are written in their blood across the pages of the history of this country; these staunch people who have set us such a high standard of honor and valor, which we must carry on. Georgia Brake Todd - 1939"

Abraham Brake was listed in the Hampshire County, (West) Virginia Tax List A, with 3 horses and 5 cattle, and was in Hardy County, (West) Virginia as late as 1792/93, where he was appointed "overseer of the road in the room of George See" on 9 April 1792 and on 10 June 1793 "Leonard Stump was appointed overseer of the road in the room of Abraham Brake." He first appeared in Harrison County, (West) Virginia

Tax Lists in 1799, the year he purchased his Brushy Fork property from his brother-in-law, George Jackson. He was on the Harrison County land tax assessed list in 1800.

In 1810 Abram Brake is listed with 4 males under 10, 2 males 10-16, 3 males 16-26 and 1 male 45 and over; 1 female under 10, 1 female 10-16, 1 female 16-26, 1 female 45 and over, and 1 slave. If these are all his children, then there would have been 13. Other children listed on various genealogy's are: Rachel, Isaac, Courtland and Jackson.

In 1820 he was a next door neighbor or Rev. and Mrs. John Davis on Brushy Fork of Elk near Quiet Dell, West Virginia. Today this would be near the intersection of Rt. 20 and Rt.79. (For homeplace information refer to Harrison County Deeds: 1/183, 2/458, 3/264, 6/13,7/148, and 12/143). Abraham was in the Hardy County tax list of 1800 and the Harrison County tax list of 1801. He was one of the appraisors of John Powers estate in the 1820's. His birthdate is from census and tombstone data. His death date is from his tombstone.

Among their land transactions, on 31 September 1836, Abraham and Elizabeth Brake, sold to Alexander Ireland, for 50 cents per acre, "land lying in the county of Lewis (now Upshur) and State of Virginia, on the waters of Buckhannon river, adjoining the tract of land that said Alexander R. Ireland now lives on, to imbrace all the land that the said Abraham Brake, and Elizabeth his wife owns, on the waters of Turkey (sic) run, a branch of Buckhannon, that is all from the top of the ridge between the said Turkey run and Buckhannon River, with the lines of the farm that said Ireland now lives on, being a part of a tract of land that was granted by the Commonwealth, to John Jackson Senior, Supposed to contain one hundred acres." Abraham and Elizabeth both signed with their mark.

Abraham applied for a pension for service in the Revolutionary War on 8 July 1834, at age 70 years in August 1833, stating that he lived near Moorefield, Virginia, was drafted into the service, but did not know the year. He claimed he marched under Capt. Bernian to Catfish on the Ohio River, thence to Morgantown, (West) Virginia, back to Moorefield and was dismissed. The pension was not allowed as there was insufficient proof of such service as requested by the department of Pensions. He also stated that his father resided at Buckhannon Fort, and that he visited him there, after the above service.

Brake, Abraham

Service - Virginia No. R-1147

Served in the company, commanded by Captain Bernion, under Ensign Harrison and Lieutenant Stump. Applied for pension, Moorefield, Hardy County. Information incomplete by report of Federal Special Agent indicates that Brake had moved to Harrison County.

In "Border Settlers of Northwestern Virginia," Lucullus McWhorter says "Abram [Abraham] married Miss Davis, whose mother, Sophia, was a daughter of the 'first John Jackson who settled in this country'."

More About ABRAHAM BRAKE:

Burial: Aft. 20 Aug 1842, Jackson Historical Park, Pike Street, Clarksburg, Harrison County, (West) Virginia

Census: 1810, Harrison Co., (W)V^{26,27}

Court Records: Bet. 1792 - 1793, Hardy Co., (W)V^{28,29}

Rev. War Pension: 08 Jul 1834, Harrison Co., (W)V^{30,31}

Rev. War Service: Virginia³²

Tithables: 1781, Hampshire County, Virginia, list of tithables shows no slaves, one cow, and no horses.

Notes for MARY ELIZABETH JACKSON:

[AbeEliz92704.GED]

It is family legend that she went west after the death of her husband and died in 1862. However, she may have died in 1852. On 18 September 1850, she was listed as Elizabeth Break, age 83, born in Virginia,(1767) living in Bath Township, Green County, Ohio, with George Break, age 63, and wife Jane Brake, age 68. She has not been located in the 1860 census for Ohio, and George Brake was living alone at the time.

The Osborn Cemetery is near the present day Wright/Patterson Airfield, which was at one time part of George Brake's land.

More About MARY ELIZABETH JACKSON:

Burial: Abt. 1850, Probably Osborn Cemetery, Fairborn, Greene County, OH

More About ABRAHAM BRAKE and MARY JACKSON:

Marriage: Abt. 1784, Hampshire County, Virginia

Child of JOHN BRAKE and CATHERINE STUMP is:

- vii. MICHAEL⁴ BRAKE³³, b. 1779, Hardy County, Virginia, USA³³; d. 21 Jan 1861, Hardy Co, WV; m. ELIZABETH DASHER, 22 May 1803, Hardy County, WV, by Valentine Powers³⁴; b. Abt. 1781; d. 07 Sep 1860, Hardy Co, VA³⁵.

Notes for MICHAEL BRAKE:

Early Life At Brake, West Virginia (Courtesy of David Armstrong)

One of the genealogical enigmas of the last 50 years has been the 1820 census listing for Michael Brake in Hardy County, (now) West Virginia. Michael was living at "Brake" on the South Fork where his father had operated a mill in the 1700's, which was the site of the famous "Claypole Rebellion" of so called "Tories", an uprising in protest of high taxes levied by the Revolutionary Government. Michael Brake's 1820 census listing includes marks for several persons beyond his known family, and it is hoped that the following will shed some light on this troublesome census listing.

Some family group sheets have circulated that attempted to assign Brake identities to a number of the persons in Michael's 1820 listing. Some have suggested that perhaps two Brakes married in Rockingham County, Virginia were Michael's children. This situation was complicated for me by the fact that until recently I had been unable to prove for certain just how many children Michael had. But on a recent trip to Moorefield Courthouse I read a most interesting Chancery File, Brake vs See, and that file alone I feel has clarified the 1820 Michael Brake census listing as well as proven the number and identity of Michael Brake's children.

Testimony in Brake vs See gives many, many day to day details about the goings on at the Brake Mill. It seems to have been quite a little village. Michael had a blacksmith shop ran by his slave man Isaac, who after emancipation took the name Isaac Kent. There was a carpenter shop where they made coffins and bedsteads. A saw and grist mill ran full time. People seem to have drifted in and out, hanging around, living for a time, working on the place. At least one by marriage relative of the Brakes had an illegitimate child raised there. Mary Ann Radcliff's chickens had to be chased out of the corn, and a still was in operation making liquor from the fruits grown on the place. Yes, this was a small village, later a post office. These details are all to be found in the file above mentioned, as well as testimony that Leonard Brake had three children who died in infancy, giving us identities for three of the unknown burials in the cemetery there.

It is clear from Brake vs. See that Michael Brake was in the habit of taking in orphans. Nimrod Thorn testified that he had lived for several years with the family of Michael Brake, having gone there when about twelve years of age. George S. Brake, grandson of Michael, testified that Michael had raised a child that Nimrod See had prior to his marriage to Magdalen Brake. George Brake also was asked whether Michael Brake had a large and expensive family, and he replied that he did not think that his grandfather's family was expensive, and that Michael Brake "bought more for children out that way than he did for his own family". Clearly the Brake Mill was a little village populated in part by orphan children, by transient laborers, by unfortunate urchins who lived under the generosity of Michael Brake. The 1820 census listings should be clarified to a great extent by the above information.

Testimony by several family members in Brake vs See clearly proves that Michael Brake had only three children of his own, these being Leonard, Magdalen, and Elizabeth in that order. A follow up on these in later census records gives us their ages, and allows us to assign them to slots in the census 1820 - 1840 census listings. Also, recent developments in the search for the roots of Elizabeth Brake who married Edward Moneypenney in Lewis County seem to indicate that she was from Hardy County, rather than the West Fork, and that she appears to have come to Lewis County in 1825 with William Radcliff, who until that time had been a resident of Brake Run in Hardy County. This new theoretical information on her may suggest that she is one of the listings. Probable guesses can be made regarding other persons in the 1820 listings.

What follows is a charted summary of the 1820, 1830, and 1840 Hardy County Census listing for Michael Brake. Each person listed is aligned with the corresponding slot in the later listings, and each is assigned a number. The 1820 listing has been particularly troublesome to students of the Brake family history as there seem to be several persons not related living in the household. Following the chart is an explanation or theoretical explanation of each listing given after its respective number.

1820 1830 1840

- (1) male 1775-94 male 1770-80 female 1770-80 Michael (b. 1770)
(2) male 1775-94 gone gone Farmhand?
(3) female 1775-94 female 1770-80 gone Elizabeth (wife) (b. ~1771)
(4) male 1775-94 gone gone Leonard - Son (b. 1804)
(5) male 1794-04 gone gone Farmhand?
(6) male 1794-04 gone gone Farmhand?

- (7) female 1804-10 gone gone Magdalen - Daughter (b. 1805)
- (8) female 1804-10 gone gone Elizabeth - Parents unknown
- (9) male 1804-10 gone gone Farmhand/Orphan?
- (10) female 1810-20 female 1810-15 gone Elizabeth - Daughter (b. 1809)
- (11) female 1825-30 female 1825-30 Nimrod See's daughter
- (12) female 1790-00 Mary Ann Radcliff?

- (1) MICHAEL BRAKE born 1779 as per later census
- (2) Probably as farmhand, probably born closer to 1794 than 1775
- (3) ELIZABETH BRAKE, wife of Michael Brake. Thought to have died in the 1830's
- (4) LEONARD BRAKE, son of Michael, born per census and tombstone info 1804
- (5) - (6) Probably farmhands, as above?
- (7) MAGDALEN BRAKE, Michael's daughter. Born ca. 1806-07 as testimony in Brake vs See shows that her birth was between those of Leonard and Elizabeth.
- (8) ELIZABETH BRAKE, parents unknown. This may be the Elizabeth Brake who married Ed Money penny in Lewis County in 1832. Assigned here as a guess, as she seems to have come to County in 1825 with William Radcliff, when he moved his family west from Brake Run, Hardy County. This is a suggested assignment and NOT PROVEN, but the age is right, and the disappearance from the Michael Brake listing by 1830 fits with an 1825 removal to Lewis County.
- (9) A sixteen year old farm hand or other orphan?
- (10) ELIZABETH BRAKE, Michael's youngest child. Marriage to Jacob B. Simon in 1832 accounts for her being gone from the 1840 listing. Born 1810 as per later census.
- (11) NIMROD SEE'S illegitimate daughter. Raised by Michael Brake as per testimony in Brake vs. See
- (12) unknown female, possibly Mary Ann Radcliff? Mary Ann was an apparent unmarried girl of William Radcliff's family who made a purchase in her own right at the estate sale of Baron Jacob Brake in 1809. Her connection to William not clear, but she was still in the area of the Brake farm in the 1830's according to testimony in Brake vs. See that her chickens had to be chased out of Michael Brake's corn crop.

It is hoped that the above will be taken in the spirit it is intended, that of speculation and study. The definite listings are shown as definite, with reasons given, and the others are admittedly speculation. It cannot be said with certainty that the guesses made for numbers eight and twelve are correct, but they are based on some circumstantial evidence.

The Brake family is still cursed with a number of members whose placement on the proper branch of the family tree is impossible. #8 Elizabeth above is one. While all of her documented life was lived on the West Fork River in Lewis County, research has eliminated nearly EVERY Brake over there as her possible parents. The sole exception being Jacob B. Brake, son of John. But she is not with any of the West Fork Brakes in any early census. The fact that she first appears in Lewis County the same year William Radcliff moved there, the fact that she named her first two kids after Radcliffs, and the fact that she testified in court that she gave birth to her third child at William Radcliff's has led this writer, her 3X great grandson, to look in Hardy County for her roots, hence the hypothetical assignment above.

Another unknown in the Brake family is Catherine, born about 1802 (just two years before Elizabeth) and bound by the court of Pendleton County to William Dyer in 1812. Nothing further is known of this Catherine for certain. Yet another is Fanny, who married in Licking County, Ohio in 1823. Licking County was the home of Abraham Brake from Hardy County, possibly a nephew of Michael. Abraham presents yet another unknown in the Brake history, at least one with parentage unproven.

Finally James Brake has given researchers some trouble. He married apparently in Hardy County about 1818, and in 1820 named a son Nimrod See Brake, suggesting a close tie to Michael Brake's family. He was a witness to the will of John Rohrbaugh there, and moved to what is now Peck Run, Upshur County, being listed in the tax lists of Lewis County in 1823, and 1824. Testimony in Chancery File 12 case 19 at the Harrison County Circuit Clerk's office shows that James Brake rented a farm at Peck's Run from Jacob B. Brake mentioned above, and that at the time Jacob B. was manager of the Salt Works at Clarksburg. The same chancery record shows that James Brake was killed by the fall of a tree in 1825. James Brake and Licking County Abraham Brake have been assigned by some as sons of Isaac Brake, Michael's brother, but no document has been presented to prove the connection for either. The search continues.

More About MICHAEL BRAKE:

Fathered child: 1800, Michael Brake fathered an illegitimate female child by Elizabeth Dasher³⁶
 Info: 21 Jan 1861, Died intestate, resulting in court case, Brake vs. See

More About MICHAEL BRAKE and ELIZABETH DASHER:

Marriage: 22 May 1803, Hardy County, WV, by Valentine Powers³⁷

Endnotes

1. Germany Births and Baptisms, 1558 - 1898.
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5. Virginia Census, 1800-90, Jackson, Ronald V., Accelerated Indexing Systems, comp. Virginia Census, 1800-90. [database on-line] Provo, UT: Ancestry.com, 1999-. Compiled and digitized by Mr. Jackson and AIS from microfilmed schedules of the U.S. Federal Decennial Census, territorial/state censuses, and/or census substitutes.
6. Ancestry.com, One World Tree (sm), Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, n.d., Online publication - Ancestry.com. OneWorldTree [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc.
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8. Ancestry.com, One World Tree (sm), Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, n.d., Online publication - Ancestry.com. OneWorldTree [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc.
9. David Armstrong, researcher, Sources: 1758 tombstone; 1763 pension: J. Cummins: Lewis Co., WV DB G2/843; Wm Brake, Trustee, H/167; H/275 1841 Lewis Co. Chancery Hasleton vs. Brake; DB M/258, 1845 Mary Brake; DB: C/450 Lewis Co., Jefferson Brake; Abraham, Harrison Co. Minute Bk 1841-43, p. 86, David C. Brake; William Brake; Harrison County Co., chancery File 88/2; DB 26/491 & 33/170.
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12. 1810 Harrison County Virginia Census.
13. AbeEliz92704.GED, Date of Import: Oct 3, 2004.
14. Hardy County Marriage Index, 1801-1842, pg 88, Book III.
15. AbeEliz92704.GED, Date of Import: Oct 3, 2004.
16. Abram Brake - Pension, United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions, Washington, Letter of October 28, 1936, to Linnie B. Cunningham, Clarksburg, W. Va. Claim R. 1147, applied for July 8, 1834, signed by Winfield Scott, Commissioner.
17. AbeEliz92704.GED, Date of Import: Oct 3, 2004.
18. Early West Virginia Settlers, West Virginians in the American Revolutions, Surnames I-J., 30.
19. Ancestry.com, One World Tree (sm), Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, n.d., Online publication - Ancestry.com. OneWorldTree [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc.
20. Hardy County Marriage Index, 1795.
21. Record says 70 years old at death which conflicts with 1781 year of birth. But 1790 birth is not consistent with her having had four children between 1800 and 1809. Death record must be wrong. Informant was son, Leonard.
22. Ancestry.com, One World Tree (sm), Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, n.d., Online publication - Ancestry.com. OneWorldTree [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc.
23. David Armstrong, researcher, Sources: 1758 tombstone; 1763 pension: J. Cummins: Lewis Co., WV DB G2/843; Wm Brake, Trustee, H/167; H/275 1841 Lewis Co. Chancery Hasleton vs. Brake; DB M/258, 1845 Mary Brake; DB: C/450 Lewis Co., Jefferson Brake; Abraham, Harrison Co. Minute Bk 1841-43, p. 86, David C. Brake; William Brake; Harrison County Co., chancery File 88/2; DB 26/491 & 33/170.
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30. Abram Brake - Pension, United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions, Washington, Letter of October 28, 1936, to Linnie B. Cunningham, Clarksburg, W. Va. Claim R. 1147, applied for July 8, 1834, signed by Winfield Scott, Commissioner.
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33. Ancestry.com, One World Tree (sm), Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, n.d., Online publication - Ancestry.com. OneWorldTree [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc.
34. Hardy County Marriage Index, 1795.
35. Record says 70 years old at death which conflicts with 1781 year of birth. But 1790 birth is not consistent with her having had four children between 1800 and 1809. Death record must be wrong. Informant was son, Leonard.
36. 1800 Hardy County Circuit Court Records, 299.
37. Hardy County Marriage Index, 1795.

