

## OUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY TREE

The following appears to be authentic. I have compiled it from several studies which were printed, typed and long hand notes. I have not taken the time to research church and tax records myself and will therefore quote findings by others.

The Althaus (Althouse) family in Berks County is descended from three emigrants, who sailed from Rotterdam on the St. Andrew Galley John Steadman, Master, arriving in Philadelphia, October 27, 1738. On the captain's list of emigrants appear the following names:

1. Johannes Althaus
2. Johan Georg Althaus
3. Johannes Christian Althaus

These three left their home in the village of Elsoff, in the county of Wittgenstein, in the province of Westphalia, which is one of the provinces of Prussia, near to, but not bordering on nor traversed by the river Rhine.

The surname, Althaus, is a compound of two German words, Alt and Haus and means "an old house". The name refers either to the antiquity of the house in which its possessor resided or to his line of ancestry, antiquity being considered in olden times a sign of rank and distinction. The name Althaus was always a complimentary surname and was never used in a derogatory sense.

The three emigrants arrived in 1738, preceded to what are now Bern, Center, and Upper Bern Townships. The section which was called Bern Township, Lancaster County, in those days, was transferred to Berks County upon its erection in 1752.

Johannes Christian Althaus settled on the boundary line between Center Township and Upper Bern Township on the Irish Creek, on March 5, 1739, he secured a warrant for a tract of 146 acres of land in Bern. Later on he took out warrants for the following tracts:

1742 - 48 acres	November 1, 1754 - 30 acres
1743-22 acres	
1751 -40 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> acres	November 12, 1766-60 acres
1754- 16 acres	
1754-41 acres	March 31, 1785-28 1/8 acres
1754 -61 acres	
1766-58 acres	
1768-28 acres	

Johannes Christian Althouse is listed with others, who purchased the original Bible in 1767 for the Belleman's Church which is located in the above area.

Johannes Althaus settled on the boundary between Bern and Center Townships bordering on the Schuylkill River. He settled on a tract of 50 acres, taking warrant for it, August 30, 1742. He also secured warrants for the following tracts:

1742- 47 acres 1742- 155 acres 1747- 13% acres

This would be the Shoemakersville area. I recall a conversation I had more than fifty years ago with Harry Althouse who was the Superintendent of the Whitner's Department Store, Reading. He was the father of Paul Althouse the Metropolitan Opera Baritone. My ancestors referred to the Shoemakersville branch as "the musical branch" of the family. Monroe Althouse composer of band music and leader for many years of the Ringgold Band came from Centerport and from that branch. Paul Specht's famous orchestra of the 1920's toured Europe and was an Althouse on his mother's side, was also from there. Harry told me that the Shoemakersville railroad station or stop was originally named Althouse.

John Georg Althaus - no records of Johan Georg Althaus have been found concerning his whereabouts after his arrival in 1738. He may have settled with Johannes Christian, dying before 1752. It is presumed he left but one son, George Althaus, 1744-1811 of whom there is no public record until 1771 for Berks County. George Althaus is an ancestor of prominent Althaus families in Berks County.

George Althaus, April 7, 1796, bought tracts of 180 acres of land from John and Christian

Kantner for 2,000 pounds. September 27, 1804, he and his wife transferred to his son John, 180 acres for 600 pounds and to his son Peter, 140 acres for the same amount. His land extended from the Schuylkill River to the Tulpehocken Creek in Bern Township.

[Althouse, Harry N.; Althaus – Althouse; A genealogical booklet; 1977]