

PRELIMINARY DRAFT AUG. 2022

**GEORGE PAINTER**

AND

**THE STONEY CREEK MASSACRE**

**OF 1758**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

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## CONTENTS

<b>Theory</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Confusion and Resolution</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Timeline</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Detailed Report</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Part 1: George Painter</b>	
<b>Oral History: Massacre</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Family Tree</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Records</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Stoney Creek v. Swans Pond</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>John Painter of Swans Pond Tree</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Part 2: Second Generation</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Adam Painter/Panter</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Matthias Painter</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Mary Painter</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Big George and Big Phil Painter</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Supporting Records</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Births/Deaths/Wills</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Tax Rolls</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Marriages</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>DAR</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>German naming traditions</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Wayland: Stoney Creek Massacre</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Abstracts of Property Records</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>John Painter—Stoney Creek</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Matthias Painter—Stoney Creek</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Adam Painter</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>John Painter—Swan’s Pond</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Other Painters</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Maps</b>	<b>32</b>

**George Painter**

**Killed in the massacre at Stoney Creek, Augusta Co. VA, 1758.**

**Question:** Who was George Painter?

**Answer:** Johan Georg Bender = John Bender/Painter = George Painter.

**[George Painter = John Painter]**

**THEORY:**

**George and John Painter were not brothers (as some claim)—  
they were one and the same person.**

## Confusion: What caused it?

**Conflicting documents call him “Johan Georg Bender”, “John Bender/Painter” or “George Painter”**

- 18<sup>th</sup> century German immigrants of surname “Bender” commonly switched to the English surname “Painter”.
- The first name, “Johan,” was often given to each male child in a German family.
- Most 18th century German immigrants did not speak English. Many could not read or write. Therefore **American court clerks often determined the way first and last names appeared in early documents** – perhaps with little understanding of the German naming traditions.
- Johan George appears to use the first name “John” in legal documents, but “George in his daily life

(See page 21 for excerpt from Family Tree Magazine about German naming traditions.)

## Resolution: Six key documents

1. German birth record of “Johan George Bender” (mentions only one brother: Johan Alexander).
2. Grant for Stoney Creek property to “John Painter”
3. Father’s will names 3 sons: “John,” “Alexander” and “Frederick” (born in Pennsylvania)
4. Oral history about 1758 massacre by grandson, George, as published by Samuel Kercheval 1850
5. Written description of massacre by son, Adam, in Revolutionary War Pension Application
6. Will of son, Matthias, “eldest son and legal heir of John Painter, deceased” naming Stoney Creek property.

## TIMELINE

(See “Supporting Documents” following—page 17)

- 1669 Birth of father, Mattheaus **Bender**: Illingen, Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany. Mother, Catherine Voltz Bender (b. 1670)
- 1707 Birth of ‘Johan George Bender’: 31 Mar 1707, in Illingen, Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany
- 1708 Birth of sister, Anna Barbara Bender: in Illingen, Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany
- 1713 Birth of brother Johan Alexander Bender: 12 Nov 1713, Mutterstadt, Rhineland-Palatinate.
- 1720 Immigration: Mattheaus **Bender**, (father) arrived in Philadelphia in 1720’s and settled at Falkner’s Swamp, “Hanover Twp”, Philadelphia County, PA<sup>1</sup> Younger brother, Frederick, born in Pennsylvania.
- 1735/6 Birth of son, Adam **Panter**: —by Adam’s own words in his Revolutionary War Pension Application. Adam does not refer to his father by name but states his father was killed in 1758 by Shawnee. Adam could neither read nor write<sup>2</sup>.
- 1742 John Painter blacksmith, deed to 189 ac north side Shenando Riv ‘purchased by Painter 1742—as referenced in 1751 deed below.
- 1743 John Painter, son, in will of Mattheaus Bender who died 25 Jun 1844 . He names son, Frederick, executor. Names other two sons, John and Alexander and daughter Barbara, ‘wife of Adam Reader [Rader].
- 1749 John Painter of ‘Agusta’ Fairfax grant to 400 acres “on creek where he lives” [Painter’s Branch of Stoney Creek]
- 1751 John Painter, blacksmith, deed to Leith. Signed by John Painter. Includes statement by wife, “**Hannah**,” who signs with her mark. (No record of marriage has been found.)
- 1758 Death: George Painter, killed in massacre at Stoney/Mill Creek. Oral history given to Kercheval about 1850 by George’s grandson. Death also reported in the Revolutionary War Pension Application of son, Adam “Panter.” George left no will.
- 1783 **Matthias Painter** on Tax List of Shenandoah County showing 10 souls in household.
- 1802 **Matthias Painter** makes a will in which he refers to himself as the “**eldest son and legal heir of John Painter deceased**”. (See 1802 will of Matthias Painter and deeds to Stoney Creek (to his own sons.) p. 24

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<sup>1</sup> Falkner’s Swamp was included in Montgomery County when it formed in 1784.

<sup>2</sup> A possible birth record for Adam is found at Old Trappe Church, New Providence, Montgomery Co., PA (See p. 19).

## DETAILED REPORT

Research about Johan George Bender (1707-1758) using only public documents—not “family trees.”

**Available records include mostly Deeds, Wills and Court records.** Birth, marriage, death and cemetery records are scant or do not exist. Later tax and census records of descendants are also used to supplement the primary records.<sup>3</sup>

- Part I: George Painter
- Part II: Second Generation
- Part III: Third Generation

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<sup>3</sup> “Family trees” will not be used. Many supposed descendants of the immigrant, Mattheaus/Matthias Bender, have posted ‘family trees’ online. Few contain any source documentation. Unfortunately most can be dismissed as pure speculation

## Part 1

### George Painter of the Stoney Creek Massacre

#### **ORAL HISTORY -Told by George's grandson, "Gentleman George" to Samuel Kercheval abt 1850**

#### **Reconstructing the Stoney Creek Massacre and the killing of George Painter's family from Kercheval's narrative:**

##### The family killed or abducted during the raid:

George –killed

Wife (Hannah) –abducted

Son Adam – abducted

Daughter, Mary, age 9, and 4 other daughters – abducted. Ages of other daughters not known.

And 40 or more neighbors.

##### Those who escaped:

One son-escaped with friend Jacob Myer [Mayer] and -- ran to Fort Powell

One son stayed at site – but hidden

*The account refers to the sons as 'boys'. [Other records imply George's sons would be in their 20s. Adam sometimes called the youngest son, claimed in his Pension application to have been born 1735-6, and therefore aged 22 at time of massacre.]*

##### What happened to Hannah, Mary, Adam and 4 sisters:

Partly based on Revolutionary War Pension Application of Adam Painter: They spent two to three years presumably at Shawnee Village (near Chillicothe). Hannah and son, Adam, and two girls then returned to Stoney Creek. Adam would have then been 24 (1760/61). Mary was not rescued until 18 years later by a neighbor, Michael Coffelt. She did not wish to return but Coffelt promised to marry her—and did. She was then 27. The Painters and Coffelts were members of Zion Church (Augusta Co. –later Shenandoah).

John Wayland, historian, adds additional information/speculation on this Painter family.<sup>4</sup> He mentions Matthias and John Painter killing a Shawnee about 1760. He does not state their relation to George. To protect themselves against further raids the surviving Painters built a log fort and called it Fort Painter. A cemetery was created for the victims and eventually contained about 200 graves. It no longer exists. Wayland also claims that "George" had three sons: Adam, Big George and Big Phil. Kercheval only mentions Adam by name, plus two others. Neither author mentions the oldest son, Matthias.

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<sup>4</sup> John Wayland: History of Shenandoah County, VA, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Strasburg, VA, 1927) pp. 65-69.

Theoretical Family Tree

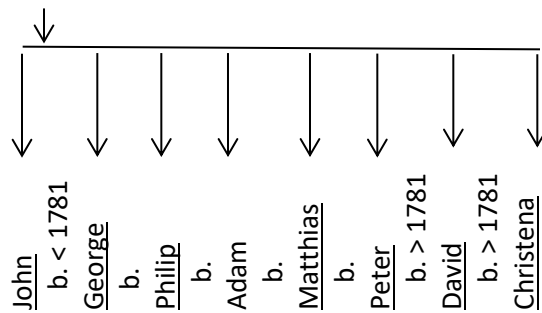
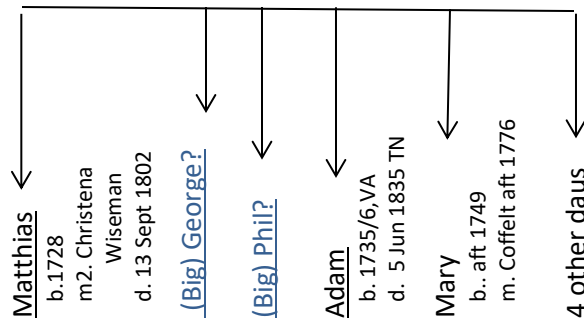
Mattheus Bender b. 1669 Germany, d. 1744, Pennsylvania  
m. Catherine Volz b.. 1670 Germany d. 1764, Virginia

Johann George  
b. 1707 Germany  
m. Hannah bef. 1728  
d. 1758 Stoney Cr VA

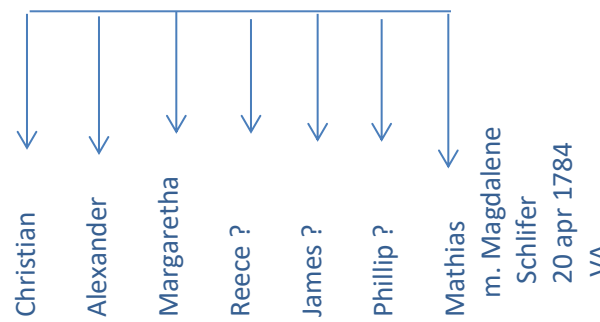
Anna Barbara  
b. 1708 Germany  
m. Hans Adam Rader  
Aug 1724, Germany  
d.

Alexander  
b.1713 Germany  
m. Anna Margaretha Rader  
abt 1740, Upper Hanover Twp.PA  
d. Rockingham, VA

Frederick  
b. Pennsylvania  
m.  
d.



Rader Children



Stayed in PA

The above are the Raders and Painters of Rockingham Co. VA. George Painter's brother, Alexander, married Margaretha Rader and George's sister, Barbara, married Adam Rader.

For supporting evidence  
See pages 17-29



## **Records of Johan George Bender (aka John Painter, George Painter).**

**In this section, the name “John/George” will be used for convenience.**

**He lived in Pennsylvania from the 1720’s until about 1742.**

**His father’s will in Pennsylvania, 1743, names three sons, **John**, Alexander and Frederick.(See p. 18)**

**The 1749 Fairfax Grant to Stoney Creek and related deeds show that the initial grant to **John Painter** was made in 1742. Also establishes that he already lived on the property in 1749.**

No documents of the birth of John/George’s sons were found.

The existence of two sons is based on the following:

**The oral history of the massacre** implies three sons: **Adam** and two others. Wayland implies the two other sons are 'Big George' and 'Big Phil.' No records have been yet found to support this.

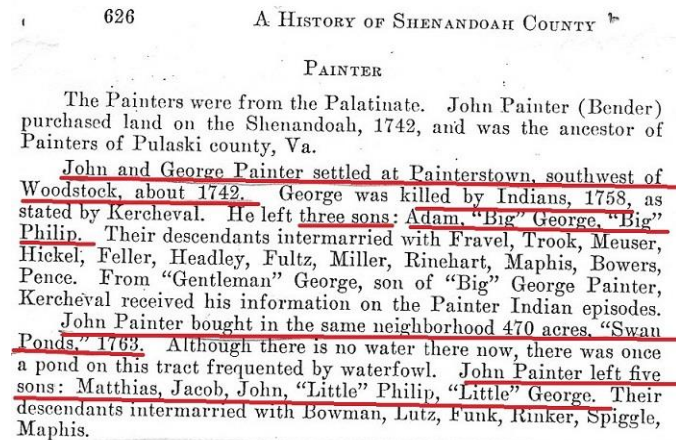
**Matthias Painter 1802 will and associated deeds to the Stoney Creek property** The only son of John/George to appear in documents, was **Matthias**. In his will he states that he is the “**eldest son and heir of John Painter, deceased.**” Why is this significant? All of the property records for the Stoney Creek land show that John Painter acquired it as part of an original Fairfax Northern Neck Land Grant. No other Painter owned it. The name “George” does not appear in any deeds for this property. But there are no other men named “John Painter” in the Augusta/ Shenandoah records of sufficient age to be Matthias’ father.(Will and deeds attached at pp 26 +.

**Adam Panter’s Revolutionary War Pension Application** gives his birth year as 1735/6. (Adam was 98 at the time of the application and he admitted to failing memory—so the birth year is only approximate.) He also describes in detail the 1758 massacre in which his father was killed (accompanying document—“Adam Panter”)

**1751 Deed from John Painter to Leith** for part of Stoney Creek land. Includes agreement signed (with x mark) by “**his wife, Hannah.**” This is the only record found for the name of his wife. (accompanying document—“John Painter Deeds”)

## PAINTERS OF STONEY CREEK v. PAINTERS OF SWAN'S POND

**John Wayland made many statements about John/George's family that caused subsequent confusion.**  
This image was scanned from his book.



See tree of John Painter of Swan's Pond on next page. It is based on property records and his 1806 will.

Wayland implies that George Painter of Stoney Creek and John Painter of Swan's Pond came to Shenandoah County as contemporaries.

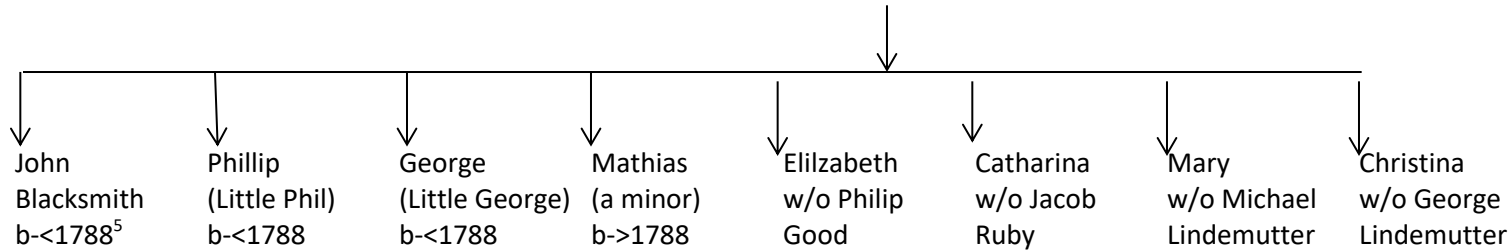
Swan Pond and Stoney Creek were located in the same general area. Church histories suggest the descendants of both men knew each other well. It has been suggested that they named children as Big and Little George and Big and Little Phil to keep the names straight.

Compare the chart on p. 7 for Johan Georg Bender/Painter and the chart on p. 10 for Painter of Swan's Pond. John of Swan's Pond was 30 years younger and came to Virginia twenty years later. Furthermore it appears that Johan Georg was literate whereas John of Swan's Pond was not.

They certainly could have had common ancestors in Germany. But it is important not to confuse the two when mapping out descendant charts of the Stoney Creek family.

Painter of Swan's Pond  
(sometimes confused with John Painter of Stoney Creek)

John Bender born 1735, Germany  
m. Philbena Catherine  
d. 14 April 1807



Supporting evidence:

DAR Patriot Index, Vol. III: Shows John was born in Germany in 1735. Shows wife Philebena Catherine. (DAR patriot record A086247 can be viewed online at the DAR web site <https://www.dar.org/library/services/search-services> )

Original Northern Neck Grant to "Swan Pond", 19 Mar 1763, #77 Frederick/Augusta Co. John signs with his mark.

Sale of "Swan Pond" to Jacob Emskweller 470 ac, Shenandoah Co. Deed E:81 Wife Catherine. John and Catherine sign with marks.

Will of John Painter, Shenandoah Co. Will Bk. G:62 dated 7 Sept 1806 . John signs with his mark. Children as shown above

Will proved 14 April 1807. Exec: Philip son of Mathias Painter. Witness George Paindar.

The 1783 Tax List for Shenandoah County lists John Painter with 8 souls.

<sup>5</sup> Birth is derived from will which names only Matthias as a minor (b after 1788). All the rest assumed to be adults 18 and over. Some have stated that John was the guardian of "Mathias"—not his father.

**But wait...**  
**There's more:**

## Part 2. Next Generation

**Johan George Painter had at least two surviving sons and one known daughter:**

**Adam, Matthias, Mary. (Two more sons and three daughters are suggested by Wayland)**

### 1. ADAM PAINTER/PANTER

Born about 1735 or 6 in “Shanando” County (by his own memory at age 98)—he served under Washington in the Revolution, lived to be one hundred years old [confirmed]. According to some researchers he had as many as 3 wives and 26 children [unconfirmed]. (Marriages and offspring not researched.)

Adam could neither read nor write.

According to his Revolutionary War Pension Application (filed 1833):

He served for fourteen months in the Revolutionary War—in his own words—under “General G. Washington”—at the confluence of the “Schoolkill” [Schuykil] and Delaware Rivers.

After the war he “moved from Culpepper [sic] County, VA to where he now [1833] lives near fifty years since...”(Washington Co. TN). (His memory may not have been reliable. Sources vary as to when he removed from Virginia to Tennessee.) The pension application file shows that Adam died 5 June 1835.

Other important information that may be derived from Adam Panter’s pension application:

His move from Shenandoah County to Culpeper County may be implied from the dates of Washington’s campaign on the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers about 1777. Adam likely moved to Culpeper between 1772 and 1777.

It is likely he removed from Culpeper Co. VA to Washington Co. TN before 1786.

1. The 1850 census, Washington Co. TN lists his son, Adam Painter [Jr], **age 64 born in TN** (born about 1786.) His wife is shown as Keziah. Dwelling 1547 (NARA M 432, Roll 898 at Family Search)
2. Property deed dated **Aug 1792**, to Adam Painter “of Washington County” for land in Washington Co. TN establishes that Adam already lived there before that date.

### Possible timeline for Adam Panter:

- 1735 Birth of Adam in Shenandoah Co. VA (then Frederick County, VA)
- 1777-1779 Adam serves in Revolution from Culpeper County, VA
- 1786 Birth of Adam Painter, Jr. in TN<sup>6</sup>
- 1792 Adam acquires land in Washington Co. TN near James Broyles<sup>7</sup>
- 1808 Washington Co. Deed Bk 17 p. 1352-1355, Adam Painter, James Broyles  
Deed Bk E [H I] Feb 1808, p 3, p, 238 Adam Painter, Deed Bk 14, p. 302 Adam Painter
- [1805] An Adam Painter on Tax List Greene Co. TN
- 1810 Adam turns 75
- 1814 Adam on Tax List Washington Co. TN
- 1819 Adam on Tax List Washington Co. TN
- 1830 Census Washington Co. TN 233 No Twp—Adam Painter Sr
- 1832 Census Washington Co. TN —Adam Painter Sr.
- [1830] Census Greene Co. TN —Adam Painter [? Jr]
- [1832] Census Greene Co. TN —Adam Painter [? Jr]
- 1833 Adam files pension application
- 1835 Adam dies at age 100, June 25, 1835[ according to his Revolutionary War Pension Application]

#### Children of Adam Panter:

There have been many claims that Adam had multiple marriages and even dozens of children. No attempt is made here to name them without actual marriage or birth records. The following Painter marriages in Washington County suggest the names of a few of Adam's children:

- David Painter to Rebecca Carr, 9 Apr 1812 (note that John Carr witnessed Adam's Revolutionary War Pension Application.)
- Delila Painter to David H. Kelly, 3 Aug 1836
- John Painter to Polly Newberry, 7 June 1821
- Sally Painter to John Gann, 1 Dec 1812

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<sup>6</sup> **1850 U.S. census, Washington Co. TN**

<sup>7</sup> Some family researchers suggest Adam married Demilla Broyles. The Broyles land adjoined Adam Painter's land. Over later decades many Painters married members of the Broyles family according to Washington County marriage records. The 1839 James Broyles Will 1839 mentions Adam Painter

## 2. MATTHIAS PAINTER—Eldest son and legal heir of John Painter

While his legacy is not as colorful as that of Adam, it seems to have been more lucrative. As eldest son he probably inherited all his father's land surrounding Stoney Creek. He then passed them to his children.

No record of Matthias' birth has been found—but he was probably born in the late 1720's or early 1730's. His children were probably born in the 1750's—except for two born after 1784 for they are mentioned in his will as minors (in 1802). Therefore it is likely Matthias married more than once and had children by each wife. No record of any marriage has been found except for one possible marriage that took place a year before his death.<sup>8</sup>

He would have been between 70 and 80 years old at his death in 1802. He names his wife "Christena" in his will. This could be Christena Wiseman or another Christena. The will also mentions a daughter, "Christena"—perhaps named after her mother in which case the wife and mother of Matthias' children was also named Christena.

His children as listed in his 1802 will: John, George, Phillip, Adam, Christina, and Mary, all born before 1784. The youngest, Matthias, Peter and David were minors--born after 1784.

Will dated **27 July 1802 and proved 13 September 1802**

*(See the deeds associated with Matthias will: each describes a specific portion of the original Stoney Creek property and surrounds)*

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<sup>8</sup> Matthias Painter to Christena Wiseman, a widow, 11 Sept 1801. (Virginia Historical Marriage Register, Shenandoah County Marriage Bonds 1772-1850, (John Vogt & T. Wm. Keithly, Athens GA, 1984.)

### 3. MARY PAINTER: Daughter abducted for 18 years.

This comes from third-hand oral history told to Kercheval. No records have been found to authenticate.

The Shawnee and French abducted George Painter's 9-year-old daughter during the massacre in 1758. She remained with Shawnee for eighteen years and then escaped. Eventually a former neighbor/parishioner, Michael Coffelt, found/rescued her. He was from Augusta County (later Dunmore and now Shenandoah). When he found her, she was reluctant to return to Virginia. He persuaded her to return by promising to marry her. The legend states he did marry her. None of this is authenticated.

No record of Mary and Michael's marriage have been found. Records in Shenandoah County often show the name "Coffelt"—one for land adjoining Painter property. (See p. 30) Research into Mary and Michael Coffelt would be most interesting.

### Two more sons and 4 daughters as suggested by Wayland:

#### 4. BIG GEORGE

There is a George Painter born about 1744 in Augusta County (according to unproven sources) who may be "Big George" son of Johan George Painter of Stoney Creek. This George (1744) supposedly lived in Rockingham County—and therefore could instead be the son of Alexander Painter. Or perhaps, as some suggest, he was the son of the Johan George who was 'bounded 'out to Alexander after the 1758 massacre. George born 1744 would have been 14 years old at time of the massacre.

No records have been found to show Alexander had a son George.

It is also possible that "Big George" is the George Painter who migrated to Warren County, Ohio before 1810 with his wife Sofia. (Please see the follow-on report "Johan George Painter—the Grandchildren"—coming soon to this web site. )



5. **BIG PHIL.** He was not researched. Wayland suggests he went to Pulaski Co. VA

6. Unnamed daughters. 4 daus abducted-- 2 daus ret'd in 2-3 yrs. No research performed on these daughters. A rich subject matter for a serious researcher in the history of the region during the French and Indians Wars.

## **SUPPORTING RECORDS**

### **Births: Mattheaus, Catherine, Johan Georg, Anna Barbara and Alexander**

Matthaus Bender, b. 1677, Ittlingen, Enzkreis, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany  
Anna Catharina Voltz, b. 1670, Ittlingen, Enzkreis, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany,  
Johann George Bender, b. 31 Mar 1707 Ittlingen, Enzkreis, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany,  
Anna Barbara, b. 1708, Illingen, Enzkreis, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany  
Alexander Bender Painter, b. November 12, 1713, Mutterstadt, Ludwigshafen, Rhineland-Palatinate

Source:

Lutheran reformed church records of Ittlingen, Wurttemberg, Germany. Source:\_ (German Births and Baptism at Family Search.) SOURCE: "Deutschland Geburten und Taufen, 1558-1898", database, *FamilySearch*.

Johan Adam Bender to Johan George Bender in Matricl Augustes Evangelican Lutheran New Providence, PA. The Old Trappe Church 1729-1777, Julius Friedrich Sachse. p. 21. Born \_\_\_173\_\_\_; bapt. 4 Jan 1734. Sponsor Heinrich Huber's wife.

### **Residence in Pennsylvania.**

Family lived at Falkner Swamp, Hanover Twp, Philadelphia Co., Pa. Faulkner Swamp Reformed Lutheran Church is noted as being an early, if not the first, of the sect in America.

### **Deaths/Wills**

**Will of Matthiaus Bender** dated 25 June 1743, proved 13 Feb. 1744/5, Falkner Swamp, Hanover Twp., Philadelphia Co. PA.<sup>9</sup>

Wits: Daniel Shirley and Frederick Richards.

Abstract: "I am an old man, sickly and uncertain of living. After my wife's decease my son, Frederick, who was born in PA. shall be sole executor. He shall give third parts of said plantation to the other three children: John, Alexander and Anna Barbara, wife of Adam Reader [Rader]."

SOURCE: "The Descendents of Adam and Maria Roder - Johann Adam and Katherina (Tauber) Rader by Dr. Wm A and June L (Hudnut) Rader.

**Probate of Catherine Voltz Bender:** Alexander Painter, Bonded as Administrator of the estate of Catherine Painter, 15 May 1764, Augusta Co. VA, Will Bk III, p. 337

**Death of Alexander Bender/Painter** d. 14 May 1771, Timberville, Rockingham Co., VA [unconfirmed]

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<sup>9</sup> Falkner's Swamp was included in Montgomery County when it formed in 1784.

<sup>9</sup> Some researchers claim Adam was born at the Old Trappe Church, New Providence, Lancaster Co., PA. I think it is just a coincidence that a child named Johann Adam was born to the wife of a man named Johan Georg Bender. They were very common names among German immigrants.

**Marriages in Shenandoah County:**

Source: Virginia Historical Marriage Register: Shenandoah Marriage Bonds 1772-1850 (John Vogt & T.W. Keithly, Athens, GA, 1984).

Mathias Painter to Mary Peters 1 Jan 1791  
Mathias Painter to Christina Wiseman (widow) 27 Nov 1801  
Caty Painter to Jacob Ruby 21 Dec 1793  
Christina Painter to George Lindemude 6 Sept 1798  
David Painter to Mary Shoemaker 24 Dec 1809  
Elizabeth Painter to Phillip Good 27 June 1791  
Elizabeth Painter to George Lantz 13 Aug 1813  
George Painter to Mary Lindamude 13 Nov 1795  
George Painter to Mary Reinhart 13 Oct 1796  
John Painter to Sarah Downey 29 Oct 1796  
John Painter to Phillipa Fry 29 Nov 1792

**Rent Rolls**

Frederick County: John Painter 1759, 1764  
Matthias Painter 1764  
Dunmore County: Mathias Painter 1774, 1775, 1776  
Peter Painter 1774, 1775, 1776

**Birth of son, Adam**

Adam himself gave his birth year as 1735/6 and birth place as Virginia. See his Revolutionary War Pension Application, (accompanying document). [See also DAR Patriot Index below. This is an unconfirmed source.](#)

[Note also the birth notation for John Painter b. 1735 in Germany, d 4-14-1807. This unconfirmed source applies to John Painter of Swan's Pond, p.10.](#) It can be viewed at the DAR search website <https://www.dar.org/library/services/search-services> under John Painter Patriot # A086247.

Photocopy of original DAR publication (red underline added)

## DAR Patriot Index - Volume III

## PAINTER : BENDER

Adam : b 1736 VA d p 1-23-1833 TN m (X) Elizabeth X (X) Susan Carpenter Pvt VA  
PNSR

Christian : b --- VA d a 9-22-1794 VA m (1) Mary X PS VA

Christopher : b c 1750 PA d p 1790 PA m (1) Catherine X Pvt PA

Deliverance : b 5-31-1701 CT d 9-1-1781 CT m (1) Mary Smith PS CT

Deliverance : b 8-26-1764 CT d 9-5-1841 CT m (1) Urania Hine Pvt CT PNSR

Edward : b 10-16-1745 NY d 2-4-1800 NY m (1) Betty Truesdail LT NY

Edward : b a 1738 HL d c 1796 NY m (1) X X Pvt NY

George : b 8-5-1759 PA d 5--1839 NC m (1) Eve Tanner (2) Rebecca (Harris) Freeman  
Pvt VA WPNS

George : b c 1750 PA d p 10-7-1811 VA m (1) Catherine X Pvt PS VA

Henry : b 4-8-1759 PA d 9-19-1845 OH m (1) Elizabeth X Pvt PA

Jacob : b 1743 PA d 6-5-1824 VA m (1) Eve Catharine X Sol PA

John : b 10-8-1752 PA d 1-7-1837 PA m (1) Catharine Taggart LT PA PNSR

John : b 1755 PA d 1799 VA m (1) Margaret Altions Pvt PA

John : b a 1760 GR d 4-23-1830 PA m (1) Ann X Pvt CL PA

John : b c 1735 GR d a 4-14-1807 VA m (1) Philbena Catherine X Pvt VA

Lamberton : b c 1740 CT d 12-22-1795 CT m (1) Mabel Smith Lt CG CT

Samuel : b 2-29-1752 PA d 1-17-1802 PA m (1) Elizabeth Bennett Pvt PA

Thomas : b 1-24-1760 CT d 10-28-1847 CT m (1) Hannah Candee Pvt Slr CT

Thomas Welcher : b 9-25-1760 CT d 3-27-1817 CT m (1) Lucina Dunbar Pvt CT

William : b 10-9-1760 PA d 12-28-1842 PA m (1) Martha Torton Pvt PA

## German names

From <https://familytreemagazine.com/names/first-names/german-naming-traditions/>

...German boys almost always were baptized with the first name Johannes (or Johann, abbreviated Joh). German girls were baptized Maria, Anna or Anna Maria. (This tradition started in the Middle Ages.) This means a family could (and commonly did) have five boys with the first name Johann. You can see the high potential for confusion until you understand that the first name doesn't mean a thing.

**Second Naming Tradition:** The **second name**, known as the *Rufname*, along with the surname is what would be used in marriage, tax, land and death records.

So in a family with boys Johann Friedrich, Johann Peter, Johann Daniel, etc., the children would be called by (and recorded in documents as) Friedrich, Peter and Daniel. Usually, the name **Johannes in these records marked a "true John"** who would continue to be so identified.

**[Note: The above would be the German tradition. When the immigrants arrived in America, the use of names was largely determined by local agents and clerks. The interpretation of first vs. middle names might have been quite different in the case of legal documents.]**

## The Stoney Creek Massacre- from John Wayland, *Shenandoah Valley, VA* Strasburg, VA, 1833, 3rd Ed. (pp 65-67)

About 1758, says Kercheval, some fifty Indians and four Frenchmen came into Shenandoah, to a populous community nine miles south of Woodstock, and attacked the house of George Painter. Painter had a large log house, with a good-sized cellar, and many of his neighbors had assembled there upon the alarm. The attack came late in the afternoon. Mr. Painter, for some reason not stated, tried to get away, but was shot and killed, pierced by three bullets. The others then surrendered. The Indians plundered the house of what they desired, dragged Painter's body back to the house, threw it in, and set fire to the house. While the house was burning they seized four infant children, wrenched them from their mothers, hung them up in trees, and shot them in savage sport. They then fired a stable and burned up in it a lot of sheep and calves. After these atrocities they marched away with forty-eight prisoners. Among the latter were Mrs. Painter, five of her daughters, and one of her sons; a Mrs. Smith and several of her children; a Mr. Fisher and several of his children, one a boy of twelve or thirteen, large for his age and fleshy.

Two of Painter's sons and a young man by the name of Jacob Myers were concealed somewhere about the place and escaped capture. That night Myers and one of the Painter boys ran over to "Powell's Fort," a distance of fifteen miles, to Keller's Fort, for aid. They had neither hat nor shoes, nor any clothing besides shirt and trousers. Early the next morning a small party of men, well mounted and well armed, set out to avenge the outrages their neighbors had suffered. They reached Painter's place early in the day, but learning the strength of the enemy from the other young Painter, who had been able from his place of concealment to count the marauders, they gave up pursuit.

After six days of travel over mountains and river valleys the Indians and their captives reached their villages. There they put

the Fisher boy already mentioned to death with fiendish tortures, as a spectacle to the howling camp.

After an absence of about three years Mrs. Painter, with her son and two of her daughters, was allowed to return home. The other three Painter girls remained with the Indians, either by choice or constraint. Mary, the youngest, who was about nine when taken captive, was a prisoner with the Indians eighteen years. The other two never returned. Mrs. Smith, Mr. Fisher and his remaining sons, and several others of the prisoners returned home with Mrs. Painter at the end of three years. Mrs. Smith brought with her an infant son by a distinguished war chief. This boy, grown to savage manhood when the Revolution broke out, enlisted in the army and never returned.<sup>8</sup>

The story of the attack on Painter's Fort and the resulting tragedies was told to Kercheval by Mr. George Painter, an aged man, who lived at the old homestead a hundred years ago and who was a grandson of the George Painter who was killed there in 1758. The place is in or near the present village of Hamburg, Shenandoah County, and less than two miles from Woodlawn, the birthplace and boyhood home of the author of this book. So far as known, the number of prisoners taken at Fort Painter was the largest secured at any time by the Indians anywhere in the Shenandoah Valley.

The tract of land where Fort Painter stood has never been out of the Painter family since the first settlement. The present owner is Garnett Painter, a son of Naason Bear Painter, and a first cousin to Otto V. Pence, the present clerk of the court of Shenandoah County. Mr. Pence's mother was a sister to N. B. Painter. Some one, probably one of George Painter's sons, and after the massacre of 1758 had shown the need for it, erected a stone house near the site of the old log house; also a stone barn at a distance of about fifty feet from the stone house, the two being connected with an overhead bridge well enclosed on either side. These two structures were evidently built and thus connected for defence against the Indians. This stone barn stood until about the year 1840. The foundations of the stone house can still be seen; also the depression in the sod on the east side of the road that indicates where the cellar of the log fort stood. In 1921, when the road was being repaired, part of the old foundation was dug up. Lime mortar and charred bones were found in the debris of the old cellar wall. On the hilltop a few rods westward is the old Painter graveyard, - started when the victims of 1758 were buried there. The Painters and their relatives continued to bury in this graveyard until a few years ago. Possibly two hundred bodies in all lie resting there. Near the site of the old fort two abundant springs gush out of the limestone ledges and contribute materially to the sources of Painter Run, a small stream that flows into Stony Creek a mile west of Edinburg. One of pioneer George Painter's grandsons had a tanyard below the springs and operated it there for a number of years.

Many of the above facts concerning the later history of Fort Painter are stated in a letter written by Mr. Garnett Painter, under date of December 27, 1924. In Civil War days several houses stood near the site of the old fort, and the place was called Painter Town. At present this historic homestead is known as "Indian Fort Stock Farm."

## **ABSTRACTS OF PROPERTY RECORDS**



**1. RECORDS OF JOHN PAINTER/GEORGE PAINTER OF STONEY CREEK (See accompanying document image, "John Painter of Stoney Creek")****Fairfax Grant: John Painter of 'Agusta' [VA]****2d Feb 1749**

Augusta Co. VA Deed Bk G p. 357

Tract of waste and ungranted land on branch of [So] Creek where he lives

Begin at hickory and white oak, line of survey for Michael Henlin at head of small valley

Thence N10E 320 poles bet 2 pines and white oak cross Branch of Stoney Creek

Thence S80E 200 poles to sev. Corner pines on ridge crossing same branch

thence S10E 320 Poles to said Henlin's line

thence with his \_\_N80W 200 poles to beginning. **400 ac**with appurtenances of Royal Mines except full third lead, Copper, Tinn Coals Iron mines. annual rent for every 50 ac

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**Deed: Lease****Frederick Co., VA, Bk 2, p 38****13 Nov 1749**

(grantee)

Jost Hite to John Painter both of Frederick Co [VA]Tract containing **125 ac** whereon John Painter lives

Begin at white oak corner to Bowling Green

Thence W on line of Old marked trees SW 72 poles to red oak, white oak, Hickory corner to John Painter

Thence N another line of the Painters N 40W 310 poles to red oak on a ridge

Thence N another line of marked trees N47E to Jonathan Seaman's line

Thence along line to beginning

All houses, edificies, buildings, gardens, orchards, meadows, commons, pastures, feeding Trees, wood, underwoods, ways, paths, waters, watercourses, easements, profits, commodities of advantage whatsoever

**Release 14 Nov 1749****Bk 2: 39**Jost Hite County of Frederick Colony of Virginia to John Painter of same place Black-Smith**125 ac** whereon John Painter now lives – part of greater tract Jost Hite Patent dated Oct **1734**[Same description as on lease above]

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**Deed Lease (Grantor)**

**Augusta Co., VA, Bk 2, p. 324-7**

**14 August 1751**

(grantor)

John Painter, Frederick, Blacksmith to John Leith, Planter.

Tract containing 189 ac north side Shanado R. purchased by Painter from Jost Hite  
Recorded County Court Orange Oct 20, 21 1742.

Bounded as follows:

Begin at white oak running N41W 320poles to white oak

Thence SW 45 poles to white oak

Thence S30W 24 poles to white oak bush at head of a spring

Thence S27W 9 poles to a white oak

Thence S60W 11 poles to a hickory

Thence S72 poles to 3 black oaks

Thence SE 235 poles to a stone

Thence NE 91 poles to beginning

Allhouses, buildings, orchards, ways, waters watercourses, profit commodities

Signed by John Painter

Release 14 Aug 1751

Bk 2: 326-7

Same as Lease except contains statement by wife, "**Hannah**" agreeing to sale

## 2. MATTHIAS BENDER ELDEST SON OF JOHN PAINTER (STONEY CREEK)

Matthias Bender Shenandoah Co. Will Bk F pp 26, 27  
27 July 1802

[Son of George Painter who died 1758]

*This clearly refers to Stoney Creek land and descendants of George Bender of the 1758 massacre. It seems also to suggest some connection to Swan Pond through **Jacob Emswiller**.*

Wife Christina and dau Christena get Mill

Son John 276 ac plantation on which he dwells

Son George upper part of old tract 200 ac and big stone house

Son Philip tract of land on which he lives, 156 ac

Son Adam middle part of plantation and small stone house, 140 ac

Minor son Matthias 185 ac on big road

Minor sons Peter and David land in Stoney Creek tract with mills, 376 ac

Dau Catherine w/o **Jacob Emswiller**, small negro girl named Sally

Dau Mary w/o Isaac Benet

Signed Matthias Bender

Proved 13 Sept 1802

**Note re Jacob Emswiller: He was granted Swan Pond from another John Painter, 1784.**

Accompanying deeds from Mathias Bender, 'eldest son of John Painter, decd' to each adult son:

--Shenandoah Co. Deed Book N ( 27 June 1802):

p. 120 to George Painter

p. 121 to Philip Painter

p. 123 to John Painter

p. 124 to Adam Painter\*

For all the above: See image file JohnPainterStoneyCreek.pdf

**3. ADAM PAINTER: (See accompanying document image, "Adam Painter, Revolutionary War Pension Application")**

Born 1733, Shenandoah Co., VA

Died p 23 Jan 1835 TN

(from Revolutionary War Pension Application File ) See image at (link)

Served in Revolution for 14 months (1777-1779) from Culpeper County, VA (at age 40 +)

Believed to have married in Virginia (wife and children unverified)

(Could have had children born as early as 1750's). None of these can be verified

**Children:**

**Possible son Adam, Jr. b. 1786 in Tennessee?** (See U.S. 1850 census, Washington Co. TN  
, Adam Painter, age 64, born VA)

**Possible Son Matthias, b 1767, who m. Mary Magdalena Peters 1 Jan 1791 and died in Wythe Co. VA ???**  
**Matthias Died 1842??**

First land record in TN: 6 Aug 1792, Washington County (then Territory of North Carolina south of the Ohio River)

Adam Painter from James Seduskie. (See image file "AdamPainterWash1792.jpg")

Tax Records for Adam in Washington Co., 1812-1814

## OTHER PAINTERS

### 4. RECORD OF MATTHIAS PAINTER – IDENTITY UNDER INVESTIGATION

Shenandoah Deed Bk H: 16

29 Oct 1790

Matthias Painter grants to John Frymire of Lancaster PA 243 ac on ea side of North Shenandoah River  
Part of original Fairfax Northern Neck grant to Ullrich Peters 17 Oct 1774 (Then in Dunmore County, VA.  
(Ullrich Peters was the father of Mary Magdalene Peters who became wife of Matthias Painter)

Shenandoah Deed Bk H: 17

28 Oct 1790 or 10 Oct 1791. (Two dates appear on document—one before marriage, one after)

Matthias Painter and wife Mary Madelena

Sell to John Frymire 144 ac tract part of 243 ac tract Ea side North Shen. Riv.

Matthias signed as Matthias Bander

Mary Madelena signed with X mark.

(See images of 1790 and 1791 deeds at Matthias-MaryMagdalene.pdf )

See marriage Matthias Painter to Mary Peters 1 Jan 1791

(Shenandoah Co. Marriage Bonds 1772-1850, John Vogt & T William Keithy, Athens, GA, 1984)

**5. RECORDS OF JOHN PAINTER OF SWAN'S POND** (See accompanying document image, "John Painter Swan Ponds")

Shenandoah Deed

Bk E pp 81-84

(grantor)

John Painter of Shannondoah to Jacob Emsweiller (See also Matthias Will)

Deed 27 May 1784

Tract part of 470 ac formally granted to John Painter from proprietor's office, Northern Neck dated 19 March 1763

**Name of Swan Pond**

Bounded as follows:

Beginning at an elm and crooked white oak in a valley or drain in **Ulric Pitzers** line

Thence running with lines in original deed N77W 86 poles to 3 white oaks

Then N10E 121 poles to three pine

Then N80W 90 poles to a stake on the N Bank of a drain

Then N42W 80 poles to 3 white oaks on a hill

Then leaving the old line and turning N48E 52 poles to 3 pines on a hillside

Then S42E 115 poles to 2 white oak saplings and a large Pine

Then S80E 44 poles to 2a black oak and 2 white oak saplings on the top of a ridge

Then S48E 130 poles to a black oak sapling and 2 pines in one of the original lines

Then with same S48W 60 poles to beginning

100 acres

Buildings, orchard, ways, waters water courses

Signed with his mark ++

**John Painter and Philebena his wife**

Same property as above

Signed with their marks: John ++ or H; Philebena | |

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**Will of John Painter**

Will Bk G p 62-65

7 Sept 1806

**Will of John Painter, Decd, Proved 14 Apr 1807**

Does not describe property. Leaves real estate to son Phillip or Matthias

Wife **Philebena**, son George

Daus: Elizabeth w/o Philip Good, Catharina w/o Jacob Ruby, Mary w/o Michael Lindemutter,  
Christina w/o George Lindemutter.

Exec Phillip Painter, son of Matthias Painter. Witness George Paindar.

**Signed with his mark: HB (Hans Bender?)**

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DAR Patriot Index : [unconfirmed source]

John Painter/Bender:

Born c 1735 Germany. Died 14 Apr 1807, VA. (m1) **Philbena Catherine** X. Private, Virginia

Note: He would have been 28 years old when he first received a Northern Neck grant to Swan's Pond in 1763.

(This record shows that John Painter of "Swan's Pond" did not immigrate to Virginia with Matthias Bender, b. 1667 who arr Philadelphia about 1720 and whose son Joh. George, b. 1707, acquired the Northern Neck grant to Stoney Creek in 1749)

[See 1769-1773 – PAINTER DEATHS](#)

**6a. JOHN BENDER, Augusta Co. 16 Sept 1773**

Will Bk 5, p 153 (Fam. Search Film 007643866, image 200)

**Translated from the German**

**See abstracts and images of original translated will at “John Bender1773.pdf” at this web page.**

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Deed to John Painter, Jr.

Shenandoah Co. Deed Bk M, p. 90-93

8 Oct 1799 for land between Mill Creek and Stoney Creek

..part of tract conveyed to Jacob and Barbara Hisey and John and Catherine Leneweber from Bonsoy and Fox 9 Sept 1794....

Start two pines and white oak standing triangular corner to **Coffelt** and Jacob Imsweller line running with **Coffelt's** line N68wE 107 poles to locust stake near 3 pines corner to said **Coffelt** in Conrad Smith's line then with his lines as settled by **Jonas Rinehart and Mathias Painter** W5630W 106 poles to pine and black oak sapling on north side of hill then with Imsweller line N 38 W 73 poles to a hickory in line of land which Mathias Painter bought of Philip Acker then with that line S40W 43 poles to 3 pines corner 58 ¾ acres all houses, buildings ,orchards, ways water courses profits

Signed Jacob Hisey, Barbara Hisey and Catherine Linewebe—all by marks

Signed by Johnson P. Linewebe

NOTE the name “Coffelt” on adjoining property. See Mary (daughter of George Painter) on p. 15.

**5b. ADAM and Elizabeth Painter**

Augusta Co. Circuit Ct, Deed Bk 17, p. 430, August 1772

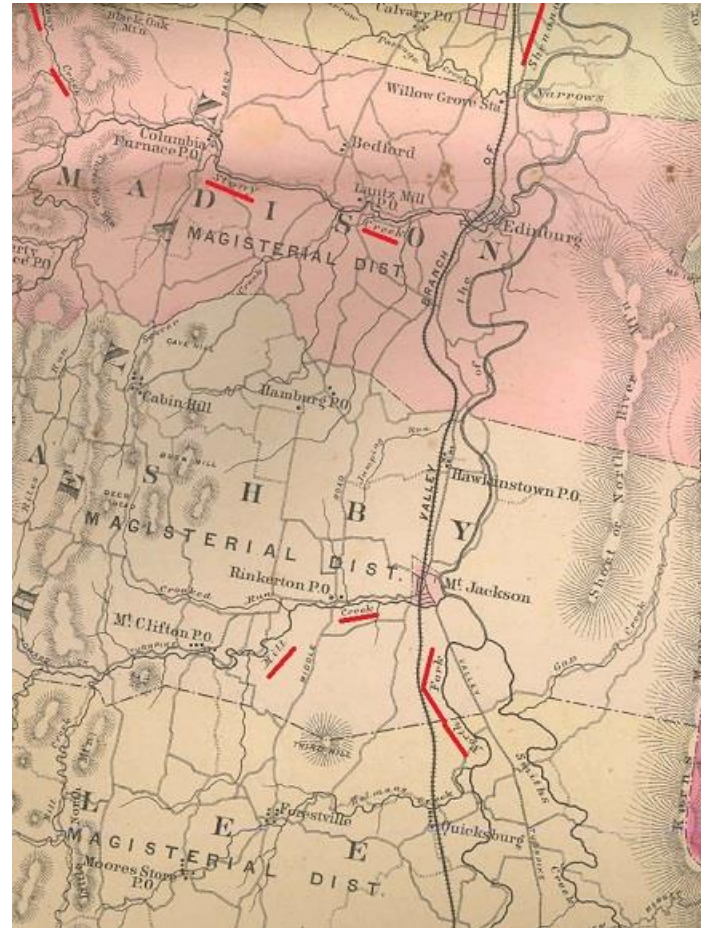
**To Jacob Mayer/Moyer Land on line of Alexander Painter**

Augusta County, probate 16 Nov 1773

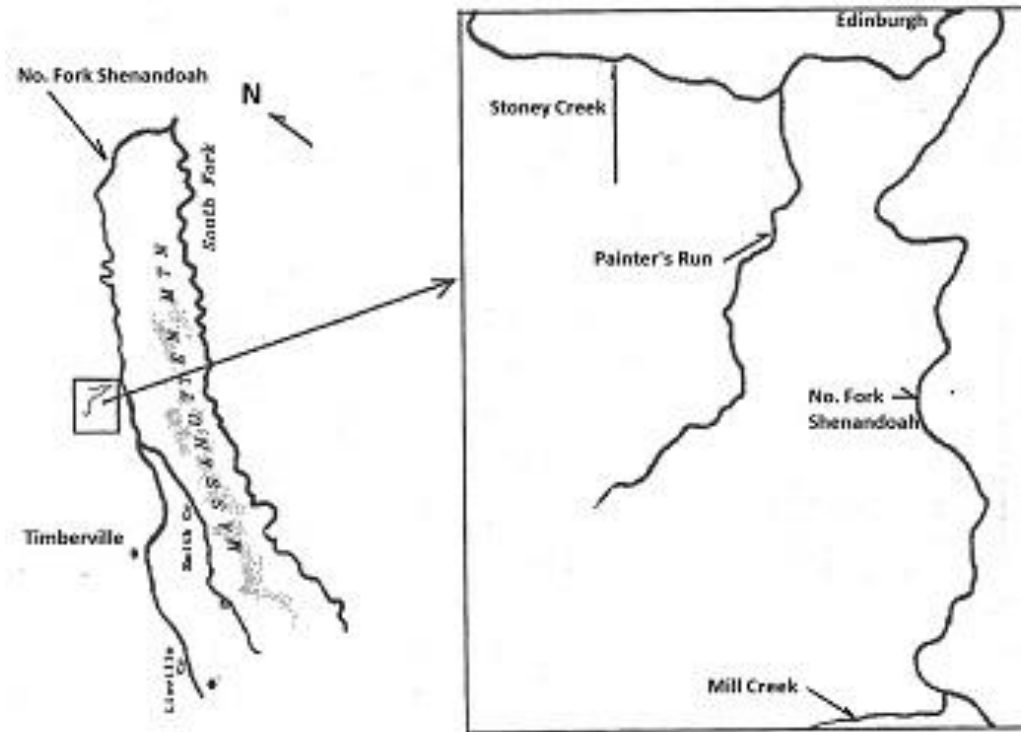
(See images of 1773 and 1793 probates at AdamAugustaEstate1773.pdf )

Wife Elizabeth Selzer. Wits Alexander Painter, \_\_\_\_\_Selser.





1885 Map of vicinity of Stoney Creek (as posted at Virginia GenWeb, Shenandoah County.)



**Diagram of Vicinity of Painter Property and Stoney Creek  
by author, 1996**

