

**A Study of  
Men Named Michael Summers  
In Early Shenandoah Valley, Virginia**

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## Introduction

The focus of this article is to identify the origins of Michael Summers Sr. who died in Lacey Spring, Rockingham, Virginia in 1839. Also refer to my related article, "[Tracing a Summers Family to Early Virginia](#)" (2017), for more specific details about this Michael Summers and his descendants.

## Geography

First, I think it's important to understand the geography of the area and changing political boundaries. I highly recommend [this animated map](#) to show the evolving formation of counties in Virginia. Here is my summary:

- 1738: Augusta and Frederick counties formed from Orange county.
- 1772: Berkeley and Dunmore counties formed from Frederick.
- 1778: Dunmore renamed to Shenandoah, Rockingham formed from Augusta.
- 1787: Pendleton formed from Augusta, Hardy, and Rockingham<sup>1</sup>
- 1831: Page formed from Rockingham and Shenandoah
- 1863: 50 counties separated to become the state of West Virginia. Of those counties noted here, Pendleton went to WV, and the remaining stayed with VA.

## Regarding the George Summers Family of Tom's Brook

Next, I want to quickly acknowledge the [George Summers family of Tom's Brook](#), who came to Virginia from Philadelphia area in 1766. This family had a son named Michael, who apparently married Ann Nancy Somwald/Zumwalt. This Michael Summers died in 1782,<sup>2</sup> and left behind only daughters. It's worth noting, however, there were several other Summers males in this family group, specifically John, Paul, and Andrew. None of the research presented here attempts to follow these family lines, but it might be something to keep in mind for future research.

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1 Pendleton County has potential significance to another Summers family which might also tie back to the Freistett Sommer family. That research is still in progress.

2 Verified by a will abstract found in Shenandoah county.

## Censuses

There is supposedly a 1783 and 1785 census of Shenandoah county?

Sadly, the 1790 and 1800 federal censuses of Virginia have been lost. So here is a summary of men named Michael Summers enumerated in or around Rockingham county after 1800:

### 1810:

Harrisonburg, males: 1 < 10, 1 < 15, 3 16-25, 1 > 45, females: 2 < 10, 1 16-25, 1 > 45. To my mind, this household fits that of Michael Summers Sr. of Lacey Spring. In looking at the census pages, it's not exactly clear if the area enumerated was just Harrisonburg or also surrounding areas.

No other Michael Summers were found in this census.

A David Summers found in New Haven, which is where Lincoln's could be found.

### 1820:

Rockingham (no place) – the census I am looking at must be a copy because the names appear to be alphabetized, which is not a good thing for me – I have no idea who the neighbors were, which usually helps when trying to identify an individual.

p. 313 Michael Summers: males: 2 < 10, 1 10-15, 1 > 45; females 1 10-15, 1 26-44, 2 engaged in agriculture (this was Michael and Susanna – see [#4 deed location](#))

p. 320 Michael Summers with John Summers next in the list: males: 1 < 10, 1 16-25, 1 > 45, females: 1 < 10, 1 10-15, 1 16-25, 1 > 45; 2 engaged in agriculture

### 1830:

Rockingham (no place), names also alphabetic, very frustrating....

p. 258 Michl Summers (listed together with David, John, and Abraham): males: 1 < 5, 1 60-69, females: 2 10-14, 1 20-29, 1 50-59

p. 262 Michl Summers: males: 2 10-15, 2 15-20, 1 50-60; females: 2 10-15, 2 20-30, 1 50-60 probably Michael and Susanna (didn't become Page county until later)

Note: David Lincoln also enumerated in this census.

### 1840:

Michael Simmers (?) in Rockingham – oldest male in 50-60 range, next door to Jacob Simmers

John, Abraham, and Samuel Summers are there. John and Abraham are sons of Michael Sr. who was deceased as of this census. The identity of Samuel Summers seems to be an open question.

## ***Marriage Records***

Next, is the subject of this Michael of Lacey Spring's marriage(s). The *47 Rockingham Pioneer Families* source mentions that Michael probably had two marriages, one around 1783 and the other around 1815, but neither wife is known.

In checking Rockingham marriages, the only marriage involving a Michael Summers is that of Michael Jr. to Mary Schultz in 1810. In Shenandoah marriages, we find the marriage bond recorded on 12 Dec 1785 between Michael Summers and Mary Ann Acker,<sup>3</sup> as well as one recorded 22 Aug 1805 between Michael and Susan Hershberger. The earlier marriage is almost universally attributed to Michael Summers Sr. of Lacey Spring. If this 1785 marriage bond does apply to this Michael Summers, then 1785 is the earliest recorded date involving him, and he was in Shenandoah county before he was in Rockingham.

In trying to trace the Acker surname, I came upon this source:

*Descendants of Ludwig Treiber (Lewis Driver) and Barbara Sprenkle in the Shenandoah Valley by Carolyn Click Driver and Bertha Driver Gasset, 1990*<sup>4</sup>

According to this source, Anna Maria Driver, daughter of Ludwig and Barbara, married Peter Ocker, a son of Peter Ocker and Anna Steiner, a Mennonite family that originated from the Alsace Lorraine area of France/Germany. Peter Ocker Jr. (other spellings Aucker and Acker) came from his home in Codorus Twp, York, PA to Linville Creek in Rockingham around 1783.<sup>5</sup> About his land, it is noted:

“This land adjoined the land of Abraham Lincoln's ancestors. The Ocker home was the next house north of the Lincoln homestead. Much of the land Ocker bought for his home farm was originally Lincoln land.”

See the [Lincoln Lands](#) section of this article for more information about Acker property.

This source, however, does not mention a daughter named Mary Ann. Apparently Peter Ocker Jr. died 30 Mar 1832 and is buried at the Brenneman Mennonite Church Cemetery in Edom. This source claims that upon his death, Peter Jr. left a farm to each of his surviving children, of those mentioned:

- Elizabeth and husband not named, land along Linville Creek
- Peter, given the home tract
- Mary, m. Charles Swank, land west of Singer's Glen

I don't know if Peter Ocker Jr. left a will, and so don't know if there's really any connection between this family and Michael Summers Sr. But the location of Ocker/Acker land adjoining the Lincoln's is,

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3 John Acker was the bondsman.

4 The following sources were quoted for information abstracted here:

- History of Virginia, biography of John Acker
- Old Houses in Rockingham County by Jimmery Terrell
- Rockingham County, VA: deeds and tax records.

5 Apparently there is a 1787 tax book that indicates Acker owned 125 acres of land. I have not yet located any tax records.

in my opinion, potentially significant. It could be more than a coincidence that an Ocker family *and* a Summers family were neighbors of the Lincoln's.

Finally, I have also checked York county, PA deeds for any variations of Acker/Ocher, etc. The earliest deed I found, involving Michael and Joseph Acker, was in 1810.

## **Church and Cemetery Records**

Knowing that my Sommer family were Lutheran in both Germany and early Philadelphia, I set about trying to understand German Lutheranism in the Shenandoah Valley. The name of [Rev. Paul Henkel](#) comes up almost immediately. It's doubly curious because Michael Sommer “of Rockingham near Big Spring” was a subscriber of the [Henkel German newspaper](#).<sup>6</sup>

In any case, here are the sources I've used to assist the search in church records:

1. *Settlers by the long grey trail: some pioneers to old Augusta County, Virginia, and their descendants of the family of Harrison and allied lines* by J. Houston Harrison, Dayton, VA, 1935; p. 597 (accessed on ancestry.com, July, 2017)
2. “[Extant German Church Records from Virginia and West Virginia: A Checklist](#)” by Peggy S. Joyner; published in *The Report, A Journal of German-American History* by The Society for the History of Germans in Maryland, 1982, Vol. 38, p. 15-34.
3. *German Church Records of Rockingham County, Virginia, Vol. 1*, by Brigitte Burkett, Pinceton Press, Rockport, Maine, 2003.

This last source provided the following records from Ermentraut's Lutheran and Reformed Church, 1798-1863:

- communicants receiving communion from Paul Henkel on 13 Nov 1813: Michael Sommer, Maria Sommer, Christina Shulz, Catharina Shulz
- baptism of Abraham, son of David Sohmer and wf Margreda, b. 10 Oct 1817, bap. 16 Aug 1818, sponsored by parents
- baptism of Johannes, son of David Sohmer and wf Margreda, b. 27 Jun 1817, bap. 25 Jul 1819, sp. Parents [my note: obviously there was a transcription error here if previous child, Abraham, was born in 1817. Abraham's baptism was recorded on page 24 in the transcribed church book, Johannes on page 25, so Johannes did come after Abraham.]
- communicants on 19 Apr 1823: Michael Sohmer and Anna Maria Sohmer

Several curious things here:

- ◆ Ermentraut's Church (Armentrout's, St. Phillip's, Trinity) was located in Keezletown, about 10 miles south of Lacey Spring. I think the Rader's Church in Timberville would have been slightly closer, but given the appearance of the Shulz name (surname of Michael Jr's wife), it seems clear that the Lacey Spring family went to Keezletown, at least some of the time!
- ◆ The spelling variation of the Sommer surname is interesting: Sohmer. I've not seen that spelling before.

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<sup>6</sup> From *47 Pioneer Families of Rockingham*.

- ◆ Honestly, it's hard to tell which Michael is appearing in these records, especially when relationships are not stated. We might assume Michael Sr. because it goes along with the story that he married Mary Ann Acker. But we know that Michael Jr.'s wife was named Mary (probably Maria) and they were married in 1810, so I think it's possible we are looking at the junior in these records. On the other hand, Michael Jr. and Mary supposedly moved to Ohio by 1814 where their 2<sup>nd</sup> child, Abraham, was supposedly born. Frustratingly though, I can find no Ohio records of Michael Jr.'s family<sup>7</sup>. Nevertheless, these VA church records could well indicate that Michael Sr. had a wife named Anna Maria in 1813.

Finally, it's my understanding that no register has ever been located for the Emmanuel Lutheran church of Woodstock, which is very unfortunate given that a number of Summers lived there. According to my notes, this church was locally called the Henkel Church and maybe also the Upper Lutheran Church of New Market (Henkel lived off and on in New Market). Perhaps there was an associated cemetery that has been transcribed which could tell us more about that church's congregants.

Add here any cemetery records

## Land Grants and Deeds

Starting with land grants, the following source provides abstracts:

*Virginia Northern Neck Land Grants, 1742-1775. Vol. II* compiled by Gertrude E. Gray, Genealogical Publishing Co, Baltimore, MD, 1988, available on ancestry.com

Regarding the Michael Summers, son of George Summers who settled in Tom's Brook, the following land grant probably applies:

O-47: Michael Summers of Frederick Co. 278 A. on Toms Brook of N. R. of Shannandoah in said Co. Surv. Robert Rutherford. Adj. Andrew Summerwalt, John Mauk, Waggon Road, Dr. Denton. 4 June 1767

The subject of Sumwalt (varied spellings include Zumwald and others) is one that requires a different research paper! But to keep things simple here, Michael Summers who died in 1782, son of George Summers who died in 1787 (see Introduction of this article), married Ann Nancy Zumwalt. The Zumwalt's appear to have other Summers connections later down the line, but for the purposes of this article, I don't think the Zumwalt's relate to the question of this article's subject, determining the identity of Michael Summers Sr. of Lacey Spring.

The following Shenandoah deeds probably also apply to the Tom's Brook Michael Summers:

- May 1771, from Christopher Sumwalt to Michael Summers; refers to land near the Great Road and opposite the Mill Race [ref 14-431, 436].
- May 1771, from Michael Summers to John Mauk, same area as previous deed, refers to the patent Michael received there in 1767.

<sup>7</sup> See my related article, "[Tracing a Summers Family to Early Virginia](#)" (2017) by M.A. Schaefer, pp. 3-5.

Moving on, my deed analysis covered Frederick, Shenandoah, Rockingham, and Augusta counties.<sup>8</sup> From the indexes of Augusta county, there were many Sommer/Summers deeds, the earliest going back to 1769, but none had the name Michael (most of the early deeds involved a John and Isabelle Summers). Therefore, Augusta county deeds are not included in this analysis. From the other three counties, I have identified five property locations that can be associated with a Michael Summers. Deeds related to the Lacey Spring location have already been discussed (see my [related article](#), “Tracing a Summers Family to Early Virginia” (2017), so I will talk here about each of the other four locations in roughly date order.<sup>9</sup>

#### 1. Opequon area – Frederick county

- Sep 1782, from Mathias Hoover<sup>10</sup> & wf Mary to Michael Summers & wf Barbara (this date is spelled out in the following 1797 deed)
- Jan 1797, from Michael Summers and Barbara of Berkeley county to Nicholas Shall of same place; note that the Barbara could not make it to the court in Winchester to record the deed, so the justices in Shenandoah county interviewed her and certified her understanding of the transaction. So this implies to me that the Summers were of Shenandoah county, not Berkeley county. The tract of land being sold was “in the said county of Berkeley on the drains (?) of the Opecon”. [ref SC3-108, where SC means Superior Court (their deed books different from the County/Circuit Court deed books)]

#### 2. Buck Hill, Shenandoah county, west side of the valley

- 1788 - Michl Summers from Martin Craun and Ann his wife, all of Shen. county, tract on SW side of Buck Hill in Shen. Co, granted to Craun on 6 Jun 1788 by patent, neighbors: John Click Jr., Henry Burkhardt; seems to have his signature which looks like GRAHN, wits = Jacob Rinker Jr and Henry Rinker, also a very German signature that appears to be Reinhart Cofmann. [ref G-186]
- 1794 - Michael Summers and Mary Ann wf, of Frederick Co, VA to Huntsbergers: Mary, Elizabeth, John, Susannah, Henry, Catherine, Sarah, Abra., Barbara, ch. and heirs of Jacob Huntsberger dec of Shenandoah county by their agent and gdn, George Rinker, land situate SW of Buck Hill previously granted to Martin Crawn, 314 ac; note that Mary Ann had to be interviewed separately bcs she could not travel to the court in Shenandoah. [ref L-167-173]

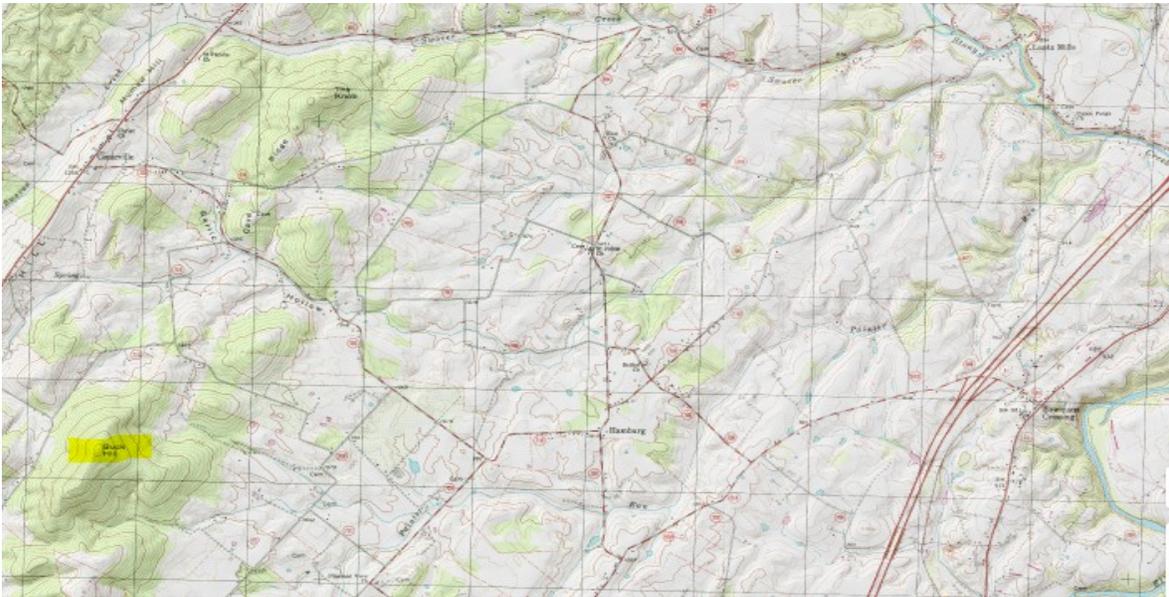
Buck Hill is due west from Bowman's Crossing, between Edinburgh and Mt. Jackson, or using bigger towns as landmarks, between Woodstock and New Market. See the following map (courtesy of [MountainZone.com](#)).

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<sup>8</sup> I also covered Pendleton county, WV, but that analysis will be covered in a future article.

<sup>9</sup> It should be noted that I also studied all deeds involving any Matthias Summers because the name Matthias is associated with my Freistett family, and because there was a Matthias born in PHL in the 1760s who could possibly have been a brother to a Michael, if a Michael was born to my family group. That said, I have not included the results of deed analysis of Matthias Summers in Shenandoah Valley here, just to keep the focus on men named Michael more simple.

<sup>10</sup> Matthias Hoover was supposedly the son of Jacob Huber & Anna Leininger; he was from Switzerland and died in Lancaster county, PA in 1792. It should be noted that the surname HUBER is significant in the family history of the Sommer's from Freistett.



Even though both of these deeds involve a Michael Summers with a wife named Mary Ann (we are looking for a possible Mary Ann Acker who married Michael Summers in 1785), there are two details, however, that make me think these deeds might NOT belong to Michael Summers who was later of Lacey Spring:

- in 1794, Michael and Mary Ann were of Frederick County, VA even though selling land in Shenandoah county, telling me they did not live on the property at Buck Hill. If one followed the Great Road north from Lacey Spring, the Frederick county line is somewhere between Strasburg and Middletown, a distance of 45 miles or more from Lacey Spring, depending where in Frederick county they actually lived.
- in 1794, Michael and Mary Ann sold to the Huntsberger family, the heirs of Jacob Huntsberger, which could possibly be a variation of the surname Hershberger, and here is where things get start to get muddy (yes, this analysis has been relatively simple before this point!). See [deed location #4](#) for another and possibly different Summers-Hershberger connection.

### 3. Woodstock, Shenandoah county

- 1797 – from Wm Kennady & Mary wf to Michael Summers both of ShenCo., a lot near Woodstock #52, conveyed to Kennady by Wm Davis & Eliz wf in 1784; wits == looks like Heinrich Summers, Jacob Myers, Danl Smith [ref K-495]
- 1797 – from Abraham Brewbaker Jr. to Michl Summers both of ShenCo, Woodstock #99 [ref K-544]
- 1799 – from Jacob Moyers and wf Jenny to Michael, both of ShenCo, lot near Woodstock formerly conveyed to Moyers in 1797 by George Rumbough and wf Mary, lot #20 lying on back street adj. Lewis Kibler and John McGrew, wits Danl Lee, Geo Koontz, ? Hoffman [ref L-391]
- 1801 – from Michl Summers & wf Barbara to Martin Moyers (Myers?) both of ShenCo, 5 ac on NW side of Woodstock, #99, conveyed to said Michl by Ab. Brubaker in 1797 \*\*\* this seems to have Michael's signature [ref M-631]

- 1801 – from Michl and Barb to Robt Gaw, land situate in Woodstock previously granted to him by Jacob Myers and Jane wf in 1799, lot #20 -- also signature, which appears a bit different! [ref M-635]
- 1801 – from Michl and Barb to Nicholas Keffer, land in Woodstock, #52, conveyed to him by Wm Kennady in 1797; this signature looks more like the one to GAW!!; [ref M-636]

My Comments: In addition to all these deeds involving a Michael Summers in Woodstock, there were 9 *additional* deeds involving Matthias Summers Sr. or Jr.! I bring this up because of my awareness of a Matthias Sommer in the Freistett family (born PHL 1762). Did he have a brother Michael and did they come to the Shenandoah Valley together? To be honest, I did not look up every Summers name in my deed research (only those named Michael and Matthias), but notice that the name Heinrich Summers appears as a witness in the 1797 deed. Who was he? Certainly a relation of some kind as we might also suspect were Matthias and other Summers who were in Woodstock at the same time. Interesting!

Also, notice how we potentially have a continuation of the Michael Summers and wife Barbara who were last seen in 1797 in the #1 Opequon area. Same couple now in Woodstock? I say, Potentially Yes.

#### 4. South Side of South Fork Shenandoah River, Shenandoah county, later Page county

These deeds were recorded in Shenandoah county:

- 1809-ish (when recorded, not sure when indenture made) – Christian Hershberger heirs to Michael and Susanna, describes a tract on the south side of the south river of Shenandoah which Hershberger acquired in 1757 (! or maybe 1767?).
- 1810 – Michl & Susanna wf to George Gander (not Gordon as indexed) and Joseph Mauck, all of ShenCo, now lives on and is in possession of parcel on south side of south river of Shenandoah, that being part of the great tract that was conveyed to said Michel by heirs of Christian Hurshberger -- looks like Summers and Mauk have the property but some payment was due Gander by 1 Apr 1812 - this Michl Summers made a mark (no sig) [Ref S88]
- 1810 – regarding previous deed involving Michl and wf Susanna, Joseph Mauck is the trustee for George Gander [Ref S-135]

These deeds were recorded in Rockingham county:

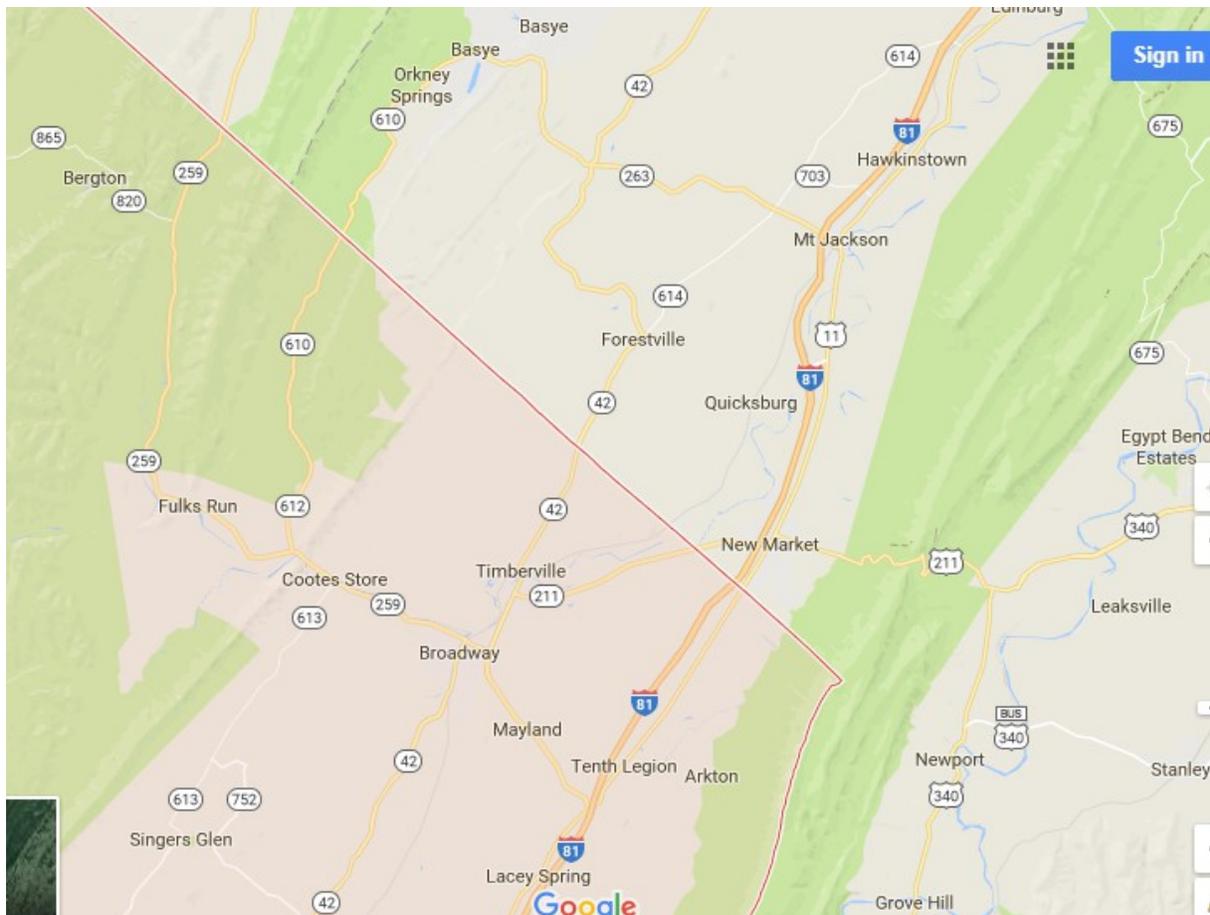
- 1825 – Reuben Folz & wf Eliz. to Michl Summers, both of Rockingham, a certain parcel on SE side of Shenandoah river, the same where said Summers now lives, 100 ac., refers to a large spring at the river bank, that contains 26 ac which Folz had conveyed to Christian Kite in 1824, part of the above 100 ac, [ref 7-130]
- 1825 – Michl & Susannah to Henry Kite Sr., tract of land beginning on the river bank (doesn't say what river) but part of a larger tract owned by Michl & bounded by Henry[ref 7-131]
- 1827 – Michl & Susannah to Christian Kite, both of Rock, same as 1825 deed, describes Shen. River and 26 acres; mention of heirs of Martin Kite [ref 7-426]
- 1828 – Michl & Susannah (the debtors) to John Kite Jr (Lender?) and Christian Kite Jr (lender) all Rock, terms of paying debt, sig block says he is German!; [ref 8-416]

My Comments: Several things to notice here:

- First, we are probably looking at the Michael Summers and Susanna Hershberger who married in 1805, keeping in mind, however, there might have been more than one couple named Michael and Susanna.
- Hershberger could be a related family group to the Huntsbergers to whom Michael and Mary Ann Summers sold the Buck Hill property in 1794 (among them was a Susanna). There are many public family trees with documentation about the Hershberger families.
- At first I thought the locations described in the Shenandoah deeds and the Rockingham deeds were the same, but they might be different?
  - The Shenandoah deeds specifically say the south side of the south Shenandoah river, and no description of a spring
  - The Rockingham deeds (burnt deeds, some information missing) refer to the south side of the Shenandoah (which fork?) and always mention a large spring
- This location really confused me at first because the SOUTH Fork Shenandoah flows on the east side of Massanutten Mountain, while the NORTH Fork Shenandoah flows on the west side of Massanutten Mountain and near many of the towns discussed here (Tom's Brook, Woodstock, also Buck Hill lies west of the North Fork Shenandoah). But the North Fork starts turning west just north of New Market, and the closest it flows to Lacey Spring is about 6 miles northwest around Broadway where Linville Creek starts. So it's all a bit confusing. Could it be right that the Hershbergers who probably bought the property on Buck Hill on the west side of Massanutten were also on east side of Massanutten? See the map on the following page, and note where three counties come together around the Massanutten area. I started to realize that South Fork Shenandoah today flows through Page county (formed 1831), and that caused me to remember a passing detail.

A recent [book](#) was published about the 1865 execution Capt. Summers and Sgt. Koontz. A [monument](#) was erected to memorialize the tragedy, which mentions that Summers and Koontz were arrested at their homes in [Page county](#). This caused me to start looking more at the lineage of Capt. GW Summers. Here's what I found:

- There was a Michael Summers, b. supposedly 1770, died 31 May 1842 in Page county. Supposedly he is the one who married [Susannah Hershberger](#), and they apparently had a son, George Washington Summers Sr., 1813-1877, m. Susanah Hollingsworth, and they had a son George Washington Summers Jr. 1843-1865, the man who was executed.
- So this Michael Summers was not the same man who died in Lacey Spring in 1839. Even more digging has made me realize that this Michael was probably the son of Philip Summers who died in Shenandoah in 1827. I came to this realization when I saw that a Joshua Summers was the bondsman for the marriage bonds between Michael and Susannah. Joshua is not a name I've seen yet, so when I searched for information about him, I found that Joshua Summers 1782-1841 was the son of Philip and Susannah Summers, and indeed Joshua had a brother named Michael. In addition, the will abstract of Philip named a son Michael.



*The shaded part of the map is Rockingham county, Shenandoah on top, Page County (formed 1831) runs right along the ridge of the mountain on the right (Massanutten).*

So, it looks like at least one Michael Summers has been identified in this study! And I would have to further conclude from all this that the poor Capt. GW Summers who was executed in 1865 was probably not related to my Freistett Sommer family.

One thing that bothers me, however, is the 1794 deed for Buck Hill (property location #2, but involves the HUNTSBERGER surname). If it was the same Michael Summers doing business with Huntsbergers in 1794 and Hershbergers starting in 1809, then Mary Ann was his first wife (maybe Mary Ann Acker?), and Susannah was his second. Additionally, if this Michael Summers was born abt 1770, he would have been only 18 when he acquired the Buck Hill property in 1788. So! It's an open question if Huntsberger-Hershbergers were the same family, and if the Summers families who connected with them were same family....more research required.

## **Lincoln Lands**

There's quite a bit of reference in all this Michael Summers story to David Lincoln having been the executor of Michael Sr.'s estate (why not one of Michael's sons, I wonder), and nearby land that the Lincoln family owned. According to the source *Lincolns in Virginia*, (LIV), "Virginia John" Lincoln

obtained 600 acres on Linville Creek in 1768.<sup>11</sup> There is a lot of story about how the Lincoln's then lived southwest of Harrisonburg at Dayton where, apparently, David Lincoln lived prior to 1819. In 1829 David purchased land from John Koontz at or near Lacey Spring, four miles east of the Jacob Lincoln farm on Linville Creek (the original 1768 land). John Koontz acquired the land in 1810 from Josiah Harrison<sup>12</sup> and the land description of the property noted the adjoining property of Michael Summers. In addition, two 1832 deeds from Michael Summers and wife Mary to Jacob Cole (son-in-law of Michael Summers Sr.) also make note of lands exchanged with Col. John Koontz.

It's also noted in LIV (p. 48), that in 1806, Peter Acker purchased a large part of the property owned by Capt. Abraham Lincoln near the original Lincoln homestead on Linville Creek. We can also make note that Peter Acker was enumerated near Jacob Lincoln in the 1810 census of [New Haven](#), while Michael Summers, on the other hand, was enumerated elsewhere in Rockingham.<sup>13</sup>

## **Probate Records**

The following are from:

*Shenandoah County Virginia, Abstract of Wills, 1772-1850*, compiled by Amelia C. Gilreath, published Nokesville, VA, c1980.

- Will Book A, p. 388: Michael Sommers, wife Anny, three daughters not named, exr's John Mauk & Christian Copp, wits Saml Mills and Martin Black. Dated 1 Apr 1782, proved 30 May 1782.
- Will Book O, p. 202: Will of Philip Summers, dated 17 Mar 1827, proved 7 Jan 1828, mentions sons Philip (oldest), Michael, Joshua, and Joseph.

Include whatever I have from the 'loose papers', Shenandoah probate

Really want to see original of Michael Sr's will.

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11 Refer to the LIV book to see a great map showing the location of the 600 acres.

12 Settlers by the Long Grey Trail, p. 363

13 Supposedly, the census was taken in Harrisonburg, but that's not at all clear when looking at the actual census sheets.

## ***Analysis Discussion***

What have we learned about the man named Michael Summers Sr. who died in/around Lacey Spring in 1839? I think we can say the following with some confidence:

- Based on two Rockingham deeds in 1832, Michael Summers had a wife named Mary. This is very likely the same couple who received communion at Ermentraut's Lutheran and Reformed Church in 1813, in which case we can conclude that this Michael Summers was German in origin.
- 1810 is the earliest we can place this Michael Summers in the Lacey Spring area (1810 deed from Harrison to Koontz mention adjoining property of Michael Summers). The 1810 census seems to reflect Michael Sr.'s family group, but the location of his residence is not specific enough in that census.

Going back farther than 1810, I think the records reflect at least three individuals named Michael Summers who were in the area along the Great Wagon Road of the Shenandoah Valley between 1780 and 1840:

- Michael and Barbara – years found 1782-1801
- Michael and Mary Ann – years found 1788-1794
- Michael and Susannah – years found 1809-1828

Are any of these Michael Summers the same person as Michael Summers Sr. of Lacey Spring or was he yet a different individual? We can eliminate Michael and Susannah because we were able to identify them in the deed analysis. For the other two couples, we can see there was some overlap from 1788-1794, so that does suggest to me two different individuals named Michael Summers.

- Michael and Barbara seem to have started out in Frederick/Berkeley counties, 1782-1797, and if they are the same couple, possibly then took up residence in Woodstock where they bought and sold property from 1797-1801 alongside several others of the surname Summers, including those of the name Matthias. But then what? Inconclusive.
- Michael and Mary Ann were last seen in Frederick County in 1794, having sold their property on Buck Hill in Shenandoah county. Was this the same Michael and Mary Ann Acker who married in 1785, and were they the same couple who later appeared in the Ermentraut's church records from 1813-1823, which do seem to belong to the family group of Michael Summers of Lacey Spring? Inconclusive.

It seems to me either of these couples might have “become” Michael Summers Sr. of Lacey Spring. On the other hand, both of these couples could have simply migrated to another location altogether, and the Michael Summers of Lacey Spring arrived to VA for the first time from some other place, either from elsewhere in VA not studied here, or from another state, or maybe even as an immigrant from Germany.

And what about the Acker connection? Who was Michael Summers who married Mary Ann Acker in 1785 in Shenandoah? Very possibly the same couple as Michael and Mary Ann above, but if so, that couple married in Shenandoah county, then lived in Frederick county for many years before coming to Rockingham. And why did they move? Maybe because Peter Acker bought land near the Lincoln's in 1806 and told them it was a good place to live.... There is still so much to learn.

I think the chances are 50/50 that Michael Summers Sr. arrived to the Lacey Spring area prior to 1810 from some place not studied here. If Michael Summers Sr. was in the Shenandoah Valley for longer, meaning several decades previous to 1810, then based on the research up to this point, I would probably lean toward Michael and Barbara for these reasons:

- Michael and Barbara acquired land in 1782 from Matthias Hoover/Huber – this surname is significant in my Sommer research because my 7th g-grandmother was Anna Barbara Hubscher (and many spelling variations thereof). Note this was *before* the 1785 Summers-Acker marriage bond.
- Michael and Barbara, potentially the same couple previously mentioned, owned several properties in Woodstock along with several other German Summers families including those with the name Matthias. This given name appears repeatedly in my family history and was last seen in my family group as a child who was baptized in PHL in 1762. Maybe he had a brother Michael and maybe they came to VA. Admittedly a Big Maybe.

If this scenario is anywhere near correct, it means:

- The Michael Summers who married Mary Ann Acker in 1785 was somebody else entirely, possibly is the same the couple who lived in Frederick county, and sold the Buck Hill property in 1794.
- This Michael – possibly Michael Summers Sr. of Lacey Spring – had a first wife, Barbara, and a second wife named Anna Maria/Maria/Mary. Whether either wife was related to Peter Acker (a Mennonite) who also acquired land near the Lincoln's in 1806 is unknown.

### **Research To Do**

- tax lists?
- Locate the source of the newspaper clipping to sell Sr's property other newspapers?
- Where is Michael Sr.'s last will and testament – does it have a signature (several ShenCo deeds seem to have sigs, might be able to compare)
- Other church records? If not, cemetery records?
- Much reference to the “plan” and lot numbers of Woodstock – is that available some place?