

Carl Geisinger

The Pennsylvania Gazette
No. 2011, July 9, 1767

Sixteen Dollar Reward

Run away on the 5th instant from the Subscriber, living at the Glass-house, in Alloway's creek, precinct and county of Salem, a Dutch servant-man, named Charles Geisinger about 27 years of age, 5 feet 4 inches high, dark complexion, marked with the small-pox about his mouth, has short brown hair, and grey eyes; had on when he went away, an old felt hat, brown linsey jacket, and an under jacket, the fore parts of which are of the same as the other, but the back parts red, a coarse shirt, new striped trowsers, and new shoes, speaks little or no English, but can talk French, and perhaps Portuguese, as he came from Lisbon last fall, and was there a soldier. Whoever takes up said servant, and brings him to his master, or to Richard Wistar, in Market-street, Philadelphia, or secures him so that his master may have him again; shall have the above reward of Sixteen Dollars, and reasonable charges paid by me. *Martin Halter*

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Twenty Dollars Reward

Run away, on the 5 instant from the subscriber, living in Alloway's Creek precinct, and the county of Salem, two Dutch servant men, one named Charles Geisinger, about 27 years of age, 5 feet 4 inches high, dark complexion, grey eyes, marked with the small-pox about his mouth, short brown hair; had on, when he went away, an old felt hat, brown linsey jacket, with an under jacket, the fore parts the same as the other, the back parts of red cloth, tow shirt, striped trowsers, and new shoes, speaks no English at all. The other named John Michael Rider, about 5 feet 7 inches high, 35 years of age, well set, brownish hair, which he wears tied behind, red beard, whitish eye brows, large curled locks on each temple, and a large scar on the sole of one of his feet; had on, and took with him, two new tow shirts, a pair of tow trowsers, a pair of home made bearskin breeches, lined with tow cloth, a jacket of the same, with three flowered metal buttons on each sleeve, a red broadcloth jacket, half worn, blue flowered metal buttons on each sleeve, a red broadcloth jacket, half worn, blue flowered damask ditto, without sleeves, and another blue ditto, bound round the arm-holes with linen; also a blue broadcloth coat, lined with red, with button-holes on each side, chiefly false holes, a pair of old leather breeches, patched with new leather, a large felt hat, with a brass button, two pair of light coloured yarn stockings, old shoes, a pair of boots, grain side out, a large Dutch pillow case of stamped linen, a piece of white linen for shirts, a silk handkerchief, a stamped linen ditto, and a hogskin knapsack, with the hair on; he speaks broken English, but is a great talker, smokes much, takes snuff, plays on the fiddle and pretends to be a conjurer. They have two fiddles with them, and one of them has plenty of money; they have both been soldiers, and came last fall from Lisbon, can talk Dutch, French and perhaps Portuguese. It is supposed they will change their clothes. They crossed the river at New-Castle, and came up towards Chester, where they were seen, and it is thought they are gone towards Lancaster or Maryland. Whoever apprehends or secures the said servants, or either of them, in any of his Majesty's goals, so that their masters may have them again, or brings them to their respective masters, or to Richard Wister, in Philadelphia, shall have Sixteen Dollars for the first mentioned, and Four Dollars for the last, besides reasonable charges, paid by us.
Martin Halter, Hugh Blackwood, Richard Wister - July 11, 1767

Carl Geisinger

Some Geisinger History
From the notes of Paula Geisinger - 1993

As you know there are several migrations of Geisingers to America, and recently we believed to be descended from the Johannes Casper Geisinger of Maryland. New information proves that this could not have been the father of our Charles, who sometimes spelled his name Carl, and indentured John, his son, as a blacksmith. It is from this John that we descend. Charles also indentures another son Charles Jr. as a farmer. John the blacksmith can be traced to Perry / Fairfield County Ohio, from there his son Charles moved to Putnam County, and from here the family is fairly well documented.

Volarberg, Austria may perhaps be the home town of our Charles. Several indications point that way, but to date there is no proof that this family is ours. There are several towns or villages in the Germany / Austria area that carry the Geising name. They were probably the very earliest location of the family. A Joseph Carolus Geisinger is born in 1740, son of Mathaeus Geisinger and Maria Walser. They also had a son John. There are many Geisingers in this area near France and this family looks the most likely to be ours. There are no record of this Joseph Carolus Geisinger after 1766, the date that we know our Charles / Carl came to America. Also, there is a John Meyer that is also from this town, and it is believed that they may have joined the war together.

There are records that state this part of Austria was at war with Portugal at this time, and many young boys joined the army. Austrian records have been checked and there are no rosters of men of those that served in this war. There is a passenger list available for the "Cullodian", this ship sailed to Philadelphia from Lisbon Spain and landed in American on October 15, 1766. Written on the passenger list in script is the name Carl Geisinger. Also sailing on this ship is John Meyer, probably from the same Austrian town as Carl. All of the men who came on the ship Cullodian have names that connect to families in the Goetzis area of Austria.

Upon the arrival of the Cullodian to America, Charles Geisinger was taken to the home of the Mayor of Philadelphia. Charles was probably a prisoner of war, and it was the usual practice of the time to take prisoners to the mayor where they were sold into servitude. Many countries sold their prisoners into servitude in America as it was costly to feed and house them and by this practice they could use the prisoner as labor on a cargo ship, selling them when they reached America. Newspaper clips show that Charles Geisinger "arrived in the fall from Lisbon" and was a soldier. The Cullodian was from Lisbon, and arrived in October of 1766.

Charles / Carl then fought in the Revolutionary War, fighting under Captain David Grier's Company from York, Hanover, the vicinity of Dillsburg and the lower end of York County. Carl Geisinger was listed in the 1780 census of Adams County Pennsylvania. Carl indentured his children Charles Jr. and John our Grandfather in 1794. Look at the signature on John's indenture paper. The father is listed as Charles by the court recorder writing the document but when he asks the father to sign the document, it is signed in German script as Carl Geisinger. This proves that Charles went by the name Carl, and the matching of the signatures proves that the Carl of the Cullodian is our Grandfather.

John + Meyer