

Biographical – Genealogical Record of Bartholomew Pickert (Pickard) and Eva (Eichje) Claessen and their son Nicolas Pickard

The lack of church records, land records, and wills for the Mohawk Valley in this time frame make it difficult to assign individuals to specific parents. For example the eldest son Bartholomew Pickert “Jr.” likely was the individual who held land in the Windecker Tract during the 1760s – although this could in fact be his nephew Bartholomew, son of Nicholas. Bartholomew was married twice, the first time 3 August 1722 at Schenectady to Anna Catharina (surname unknown) at which time he was residing at Schoharie; and later to a Phillibina when he made out his will 21 July 1784 while residing at Ft. Plank (Minden Township, NY). Whether he had any children is unclear. Those who are contemporary have been assigned to his brother Nicholas – but this is largely by default.

What follows is a history compiled by Pickard family researchers (e.g., Katie Johnston) and generally taken from her compilation on <http://pickardplace.com> - mostly verbatim, but with some considerable additions and re-arrangement of facts by the present author.

Bartholomew PICKERT (PICKARD). Bartholomew was a soldier and emigrant to the colony of New York. He was born at Leicestershire, Leicester, England, and baptized in St. Martin's, September 18, 1676. His parents were Bartholomew and Dorothy Dorothe-PICKARD.

In 1697, Bartholomew joined His Majesty's Army and shipped out of Leicester, England with three companies of troops consisting of two hundred men to New York. They were deployed to protect the Northern Frontier from raids by the French and their Indian allies.

He was transferred to Schenectady near the end of 1698. It was here that he met and married a Dutch girl, Eechje (Eva) CLAES on November 12, 1698.

In Jonathan Pierson's Genealogies of the First Settlers of the Ancient County of Albany 1630-1800, a compilation of church and civil records, there is an entry that reads: "Pikkart, Bartholomeus; Jong Man Van Lester Schier In Out England M. Aagje Claasze Van Schenectady 11-12 - 1698" or roughly translated from German, "Pickard, Bartholomew; young man from Leicestershire in old England, married Eve Classen of Schenectady November 12, 1698". Eechje (Eva) CLAES was likely born near Schenectady about 1680. Her father may have been Nicholas Claes (although other researchers, without providing sources, list her as a child of Claes Lourens Van der Volgen. They were members of the Reformed Church of Schenectady County, New York. She and Bartholomew were accepted as members of the First Reformed Dutch Church, Schenectady, Albany County, New York. Date: 1700; membership list - Bartholomeus Pikker, Eegie Claesen.

In 1707, Bartholomew Pickard was identified in the Albany city records as a "retailer of strong liquors" and was required to pay six shilling for a liquor license. About 1706, they moved to Albany, where Bart was a Grenadier in Colonel Richard Ingoldsby's Company

until sometime after 1713. He was granted a lot for a farm about six miles west of Albany on the King's Highway on January 15, 1717. He farmed there, at Verrebergh (Far Hill) until 1723, when he was granted a patent at Stone Arabia for 940 acres.

His neighbors were the Palatines who had come over in 1709, and were finally receiving some land of their own. Since the record keepers were most likely German or at least expected all the local inhabitants to be German, it may explain why Bartholomew was recorded as Pikkert rather than Pickard. He is even described in one source as one of the distressed Palatines who came in 1709.

Bartholomew died in New York, on 6 April 1742. He may have been buried on his farm.

Bart and Eva acquired property on the east side of Canajoharie about 1731. It was supposedly a gift to them by the Mohawks and had been confirmed by a "Moonlight survey." Apparently Eva PIKKERT and Sir William JOHNSON were at odds about the legality of this gift. She is mentioned in more than one letter in the Jonhson Papers. Eva died when she was about eighty-five years old, shortly after she and her grandson Jacobus Mabie were evicted by Sir William JOHNSON from this property in 1767.

A second biographical compilation was made by the present author and will overlap the above:

The Pickards had been in Leicester since King Henry left a member of his retinue "a certain Richard" in charge of his forest there during the thirteenth century, Bartholomew's father was a shoemaker from Willoughby, His mother's name was given to Bart's daughter. His brothers went into the weaving trade but these occupations must not have appealed to young Bartholomew and, as things turned out, he certainly had a more interesting, exciting and profitable life for venturing forth. He was born 1676 in Willoughby, Leicestershire, England and christening 18 SEP 1676 St. Martin's, Leicester, England. Bartholomew Pickert (Pickard) was a soldier and emigrant to the colony of New York. In 1697, Bartholomew joined His Majesty's Army and shipped out with three companies of troops consisting of two hundred men to New York. They were deployed to the Northern Frontier from raids by the French and their Indian allies. Bart was a soldier in a company on duty at the fort in Albany during the 1690's. He was transferred to Schenectady near the end of 1698. It was here that he met and married Eechje (Eva) CLAES. She had been born near Schenectady about 1680. Marriage record describes him as an unmarried man from Leicestershire in Old England and an unmarried woman from Schenectady. He served in the British Army in 1697 for six months, protecting the frontiers at Albany for thrupence a day. In 1709, he was identified in the Albany city records as a "retailer of strong liquors" and was required to pay six shillings for a liquor license.

They were members of the Reformed Church of Schnectady. Their first three children were baptized there. About 1706, they moved to Albany, where Bart was a Grenadier in Colonel Richard Ingoldsby's Company until sometime after 1713. In 1709, he was identified in the Albany city records as a "retailer of strong liquors" and was required to

pay six shillings for a liquor license. He was granted a lot for a farm (Verreberg, Far Hill) about six miles west of Albany on the King's Highway, on the north side of the Highway, abutting the property of Isaac Valkenberg, on January 15, 1717. He farmed there until 1723, when he was granted a patent at Stone Arabia for 940 acres. He had four lots (#2, 8, 44, and 48) of 50 acres each and was listed as an original patentee.

Bart and Eva acquired property on the east side of Canajoharie about 1731. It was supposedly a gift to them by the Mohawks and was confirmed by a "Moonlight survey." Hence, although his eldest son Bartold Pickert and wife Catharina were listed as communicants at Stone Arabia in 1743, the couple may have moved to a new location. The year before, in 1742, Bart died, and was buried 6 April 1742, registered at Stone Arabia, but there is some confusion as to where the burial took place. Eva PIKKERT and Sir William JOHNSON were at odds about the legacy of this gift. She is mentioned in more than one letter in the Johnson Papers from 1753 to 1767 in relation to she and family operating a tavern on this disputed leased land and selling liquor to the Indians. Eva likely died when she was about eighty five years old, shortly after she and her grandson Jacobus Mabie were evicted by Sir William JOHNSON from this property in 1767.

Eva (Claessen) PICKARD: As to the details of Eva's life, information can be found in sources such as the "History of Stone Arabia" as well as original sources such as the Papers of Sir William Johnson. Eva's parentage is not clear – it depends on what source one cares to consult. Some provide her with a realistic guess as above, or offer her a lengthy Dutch pedigree with Claes Laurens Van der Voglen as father, and mother either Maritje Swart or Gertrude Van Petten. As the present author notes elsewhere, there was at least one Black slave names Claes residing in Schenectady at the time she was born. One interesting fact is that at the christening of her daughter Dorothea 28 July 1703 at Schenectady, one of the witnesses was a Geertruy Klaasen who was likely a relative – but it is not possible to assert that she was the mother or a sister to Eva. Three years earlier the first child of Bart and Eva was baptized on 9 January 1700 at Schenectady. The baptism immediately before this entry is for Maria, daughter of Jesias Swart and Evan Teunisz with sponsors Johannes Peek and Neeltje Claasz. The latter is likely a relative of Eva (sister?).

Eechje Picard spoke the Mohawk Indian dialect fluently (or more correctly is documented as understanding the Indian language well). After Bartholomew's death in 1742, Eva Pickard continued to run the establishment for "strong liquor". King Hendrick and three other Indians appeared before the council in New York City June 12, 1753, declaring their intentions of driving out of the country a certain Barclay and a Mrs. Eva Pickard because of their selling liquor to the Indians and taking more land than they were given. She became the "NOTORIOUS EVA PICKARD".

It could be a mere coincidence, but the father of Henry Windecker, George Windecker, was a trader whose specialty was hard liquor. In May 1753 the missionary Gideon Hawley was headed to the Oquaga settlements when, *At Towanoendalough the party were joined by a trader named George Winedecker and a companion, who had come*

down from Otsego Lake with a boatload of goods, including rum, and were bound for Oghwaga and the intermediate Indian villages. The ill effects of Winedecker's rum were soon to be seen. Apparently things got so rowdy in the Indian village that the women were forced to hide all the objects that could be used as weapons. The party continued traveling together until they reached their destination at Oghwaga, and Hawley noted that, *On the following day, June 5th, 'many were worse for the rum that had come with us'*. As with the Mohawks of Canajoharie, the Indians continued to plead with officials not to allow liquor to be sold to them – but they had little self – control in “just saying no” (Halsey, 1963: 59-62). Could Eve and George be working together for economic gain, and this contact led to a very significant linkage between the Windecker and Pickert families.

In another document by the present author he summarized the following information. Eve who frustrated Sir William Johnson by selling liquor to the Indians of Canajoharie and allegedly attempting to scam them out of their land. On 17 February 1761 the secretary to Sir William Johnson noted that, *an old Mulatto Woman named Eve Pickerd waited on Sir William with a Deed of gift (for a parcel of low, and wooded land containing about 1100 acres) which she had, which was dated last September, and which Sir William discovered had been executed only two days ago, by three Indians whom she called to her house, & whom she, and her Grandson (who sell liquor) had made drunk, & then prevailed on them to sign the Deed, without having a License from the Governour, or President (JP, Vol. 10, p.220)*. Two days later Johnson himself wrote to Cadwallader Colden and noted his concerns about, *Ury Klock, & one Eve Pickard a Mullatto Woman living on the Flatts of Canajoharie*. Apparently Eve and Klock were working together, or engaging in exactly the same practice. Eve showed Johnson, *a Deed of gift for part of the Indian Flatts, or Lowlands etc., signed but three days ago by three Indians dead drunk, it is dated notwithstanding last September, the three Indians whom she got to sign it, are the drunkenest Rascals in ye whole Castle, and were carried away from a Horse race on the Ice, by Eve Pickards Children to their House wh is a Tavern there made drunk for the above purpose (JP, Vol. 3, p.339)*.

Perhaps out of desperation or necessity, Johnson sometimes used the services of Eve to address other land issues. For example on 25 January 1762 *Mrs. Eve Pickerd of Canajoharee* signed a deposition wherein she testified as to what David Schuyler and Peter Waggoner reported to her about the very vexing fraudulent survey done by Mr. Collins. Here Johnson stated, *she understands the Indian language well* – Schuyler wishing Eve to go to the Indians to let them know he did not know what Collins has done (Vol. 13: 276). On 29 December 1763 Eve wrote a letter, *from Mrs. Eghye Pickerd, at Canajoharry, refusing to removed from land that she says she occupys with the Indian's concent, and declaring confidence that Johnson will do her justice (Vol. 4:280)*. The matter just seemed to drag on.

On 31 January 1765, *two Indians of Conjohare, (Joseph, and Hance) came to Sir Wm and complained that Cobus Maybee, Joseph his brother, and the rest of the family called some Indians to their house, gave them as much Rum as made them beastly drunk, and then threw three of the drunkenest of them into a Sled prepared for that purpose, without*

their blankets, and carried them to Jelles Funda's house in order to bring them to Albany to sign a Deed for the Land they live on, although repeatedly warned against the same by the Indians, and Sr. Wm at the earnest Request of the whole Castle in publick meeting. The two above mentioned Indians overtook Maybee with the three drunken Indians, took them by force from Maybee, and sent them home, much enraged against Maybee for the villainous Trick, he and his family had served them. Johnson threatened Eve and family that they leave the land, and not breed any further disputes with the Indians, otherwise he wou'd prosecute here, and family as Incendiaries (Vo. 11: 555-556). The matter finally seemed in line to be settled when, on 14 march 1767, John Butler & Henrick Fry Esqrs. Arrive here, and reported to Sir Wm that they had last Thursday warned Jacobus Maybee and his grandmother Eve Pickard to remove in 18 days time off the Indians land agreeable to the Governor's Orders, and that they the said Maybee and Eve Pickard promised to comply with the said Order, on which the Indians made a long Speech to the Justices returning the Govr. Sir Wm. And them many thanks for the Justice done to them in the affair (Vol. 12: 288). It is not clear that the family did in fact leave, or if they did it was only to retreat to their "upland home" nearby.

Residence: From before 1761 until 1767: Indian Flats, Canajoharie Castle, Albany County, New York. At this time she was residing with her two grandsons, Jacobus and Joseph Maybe, sons of her daughter Dorothy (Pickert) Maybe and unspecified other members of "the family".

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diately from and thereafter, all and singular the estate right and interest of and in the said premisses, which by virtue of the attainder aforesaid accrued to the people of this State, shall be and is hereby declared to be vested in the said Henry his heirs and assigns forever, provided nevertheless that the said Henry shall bear and pay the whole expences of such appraisment and of the wages and expences of the commissioners in attending the same.

And whereas the legislature deem it expedient to stay the sale of certain lands near Canejohary Castle in Tryon county, now in the possession of **Jacobus Mabie** and Joseph Mabie, and certain other lands in the district of Hosick in the county of Albany lately possessed by John Ferguson and now in the possession of Ruth Ferguson.

It is therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the commissioners of forfeitures in the western district be, and they are hereby directed to withhold the sale or conveyance of the said lands now in the possession of the said **Jacobus Mabie** and Joseph Mabie, and of the said lands now in the possession of the said Ruth Ferguson, until the further order of the legislature; and that until such further order the commissioners of sequestration in the said counties respectively be and they are hereby directed to withhold leasing the said lands or any part thereof.

The matter had apparently dragged on until after the Revolution, despite the apparent eviction, as seen in a ruling of 14 April 1782 by the Commission in New York looking into land forfeitures, as seen in the above entry.

Ultimately the Joseph Mabie his neighbor and kinsman Jacob Schuyler, moved to the territory of the Oneida, and leased land on their Reservation – more or less repeating the scenario they seemed to know so intimately – living among the local Native population.

Eechji "Eva" Classez-Pickard died likely on or about 1767 at Indian Flats, near the Canajoharie Castle, Albany County, New York. At that time she would have been 85 to 87 years old.

Eeichje (Eve, Eva) Klaasen was apparently the daughter of a Claes (Nicholas) although the "guesses", seen on Internet websites to date, conflict with the fact that Sir William Johnson called Eva, "an old Mulatto Woman". It is unknown whether her father or mother was African.

From Pearson's book on the genealogy of the first settlers of Schenectady an answer may be found. There are many with the first name Claes (Nicholas) including Claes Fredericksen Van Petten, Claes Lourentz Van der Volgen, and Claes Willenze Van Coppnol. In another article written by the current author he presents evidence that the first listed of the above is the likely father. A search of relevant records will be made for a Claes with a daughter Gertruy since a Gertruy Klassen was a sponsor at the baptism of Eva's daughter Dorothy in 1703.

Considering that Eva married Bartholomew Pickard, a wealthy and influential individual in the community, it is more likely that the above Claas is her father than say the Claes an African slave of Gerrit Bancker, residing in Schenectady, who in 1679 was convicted for theft of a silver coin. Since the church records do not begin until 1683 and Eva was likely born between 1680 and 1682 to one of a Dutch resident's female African slaves, then it is not unusual that her baptism does not appear.

For example, Van Petten owned a number of African slaves, and in the 1720s prominent Mohawks from Tiononderoge would stay at Van Pettens, and at least one of the slaves could converse in Mohawk. It has been noted in the Papers of Sir William Johnson that Eva understood the Mohawk language well - there likely being a trading relationship between Van Petten and these Mohawk families (including one Johannes, and Aaron Hill Oseraghete). Even in the time of Joseph Brant there were a number of African individuals whose surname was Van Patter (a known variant of Van Petten). For example Prince Van Patter obtained land near the Mohawk Village and lived out his days in the Brantford area.

Eva was one of the two local thorns (the other being George Klock) in the side of Sir William since she claimed a lease (believed to be obtained fraudulently) from some Canajoharie Mohawks whom she made drunk before signing the paper. She also kept a tavern on the flats by the Canajoharie Castle from which she sold rum to the Indians with the resulting turmoil. She and her grandson Jacobus Mabie were under constant threat of eviction from at least 1753, but no one could find a legal way of removing them until the Governor finally issued a direct order and in 1767 Eva and grandchildren had to leave this location - although her grandchildren had large holdings of land locally on the Van Horne

and Windecker Patents. She likely retreated to one of these locations and died soon thereafter.

Biography of Nicholas Pickard and Anna Barabara Weiser - Nicholas first appears in land records in 1733 at the assigning of lots in the second allotment of the Stone Arabia Patent (his father having four lots from the first allotment in 1723). At some point, likely before 1742 when his father died, Nicholas moved to the Canajohary District. His mother Eva also moved here (likely in 1742). Some of the sons (Jacob, Joseph and Bartholomew Mabie) of his sister Dorothy (who were residing at Schoharie near Caudaurity) joined him in the area, taking up lands on the Van Horne Patent (adjoining the Windecker Patent).

In 1750 Nicholas and family resided about a mile from Canawadagy, the "upper Castle of the Mohawks" when visited by Anna Barbara's brother Conrad Weiser on 3 September. This was likely the location on Lot 2 of the 6th Allotment of the Van Horne Patent where Ft. Henry was built 5 years later. They likely resided with the mother of Nicholas, Eva, who appears to have had a tavern built on the flats below the area where Ft. Henry would be built - which tallies with the one mile from the Castle description. Weiser recommended his nephew John to take over his role as Interpreter, since "the young man speaks their language tolerably well now", and his father's residence is only a mile from the Upper Castle.

On 27 May 1754 an Indian Deed was written for a tract of 45,000 acres of land "on the west side of Lake Caniadarage. The first two names on the deed are David Schuyler and Nicholas Pickard, others included such luminaries as G. Stuyvesant, James Livingston and John Willet (and others) – and the Tract was known as Schuyler's Patent located in Otsego County, New York. It was surveyed 1 February 1755.

Nicholas and Anna Barbara appear to have lived to a ripe old age as noted below in the diary of Rev. Samuel Occam's visit to Springfield, Otsego County:

*Thirsdays Sep r 14 and Fry d was at the place, went to see some Families.
Lodgd once at M r Dicks and once at M r Crippins*

Saturday Sep r i6: Just after Dinner we went to one M r Nicholas Pickards where the Christian People were to have a Conference meeting, the People collected Some Time in the after Noon, and they began by Prayer and sung, and they began to relate their Experiences, and there were 12 men and three women, that related the work of god on their souls and it took them till near Mid Night, and it was the most agreable meeting that ever I was at. there were several Nations and Denominations & yet all harmonious, there was no Jar amongst them, but Peace and Love, there experiences were acording to the Doctrines of the Gospel. I Lodgd at the same House & was very kindly entertained, the man is a Dutchman & his [wife] is Ireish woman, and both I believe were sincere Christians.

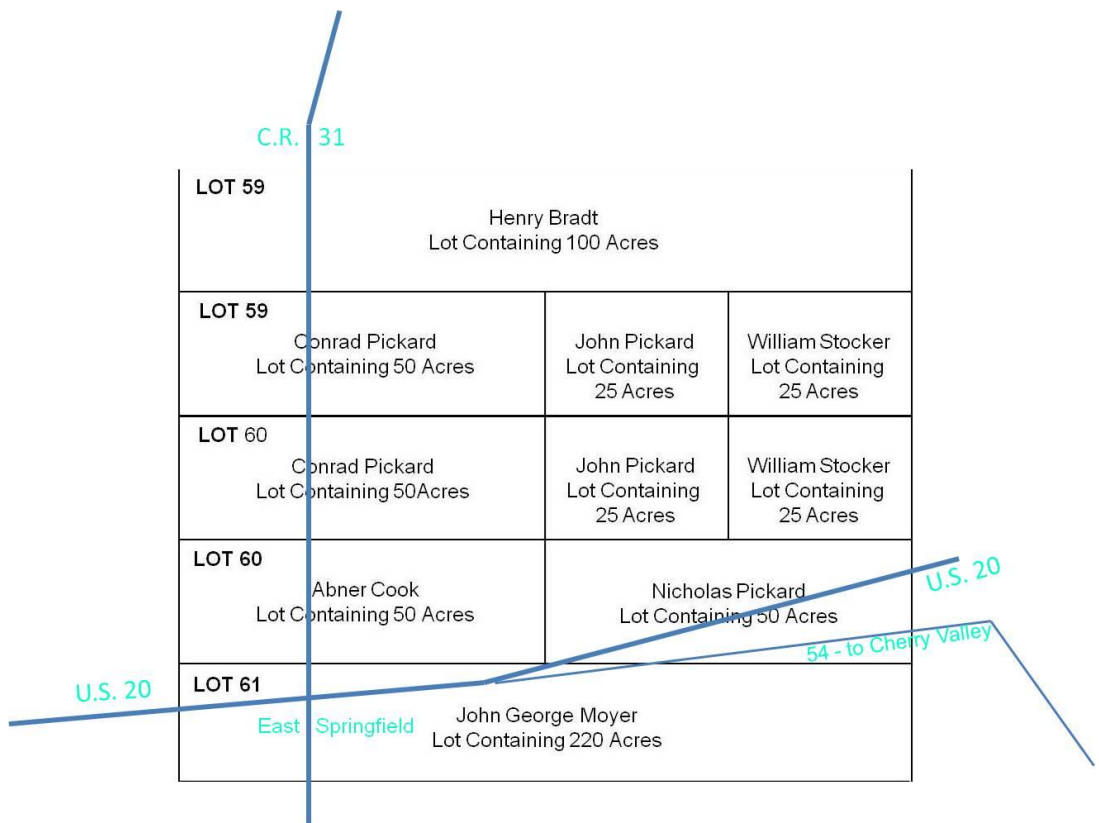
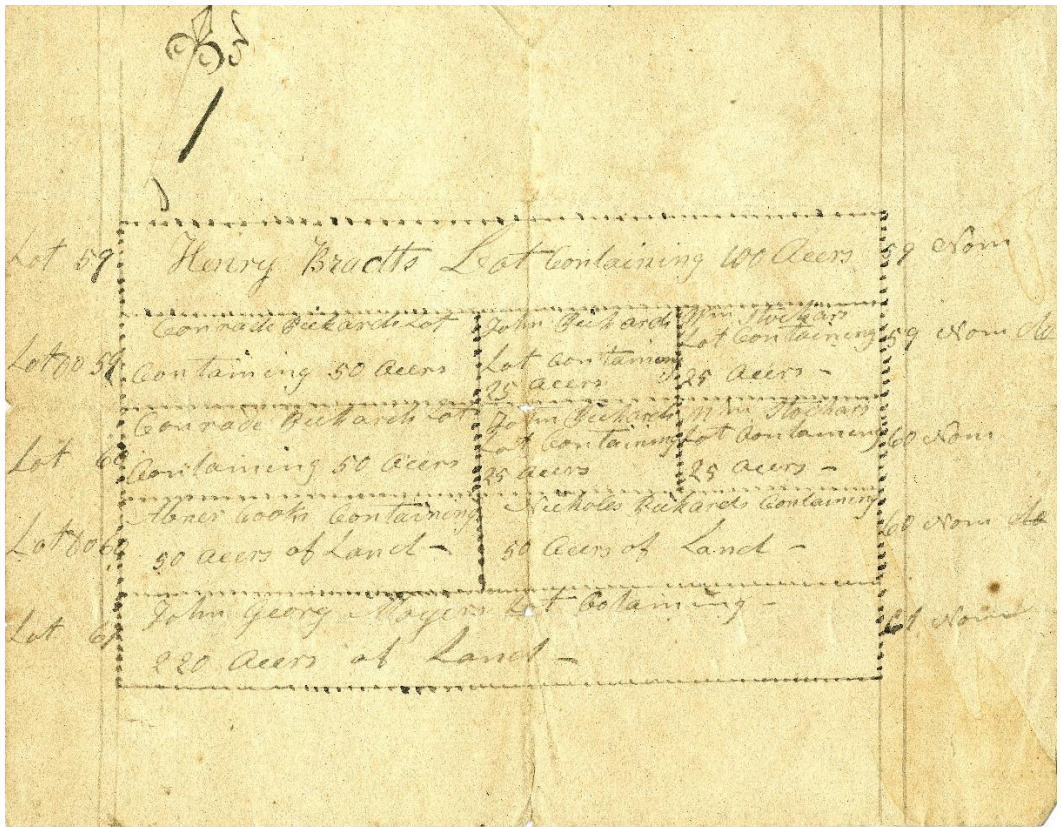
Sabb Sep 1 ' 17: Near 10 we went to meeting at old Mr Pickards in his New House only coverd over head, and there was a Prodigious Number of, People and I spoke from Acts xi. 26. in the after Noon from the last Psa and the last verse after meetg went to Deacon Childs, and in the Evening a number of young People came to the House to receive Instruction, and I spoke to them from some passages of Scripture, and after that we had Exercise with my Notes, and there was great solemnity amongst them, they were most all Dutch People they stayd late.

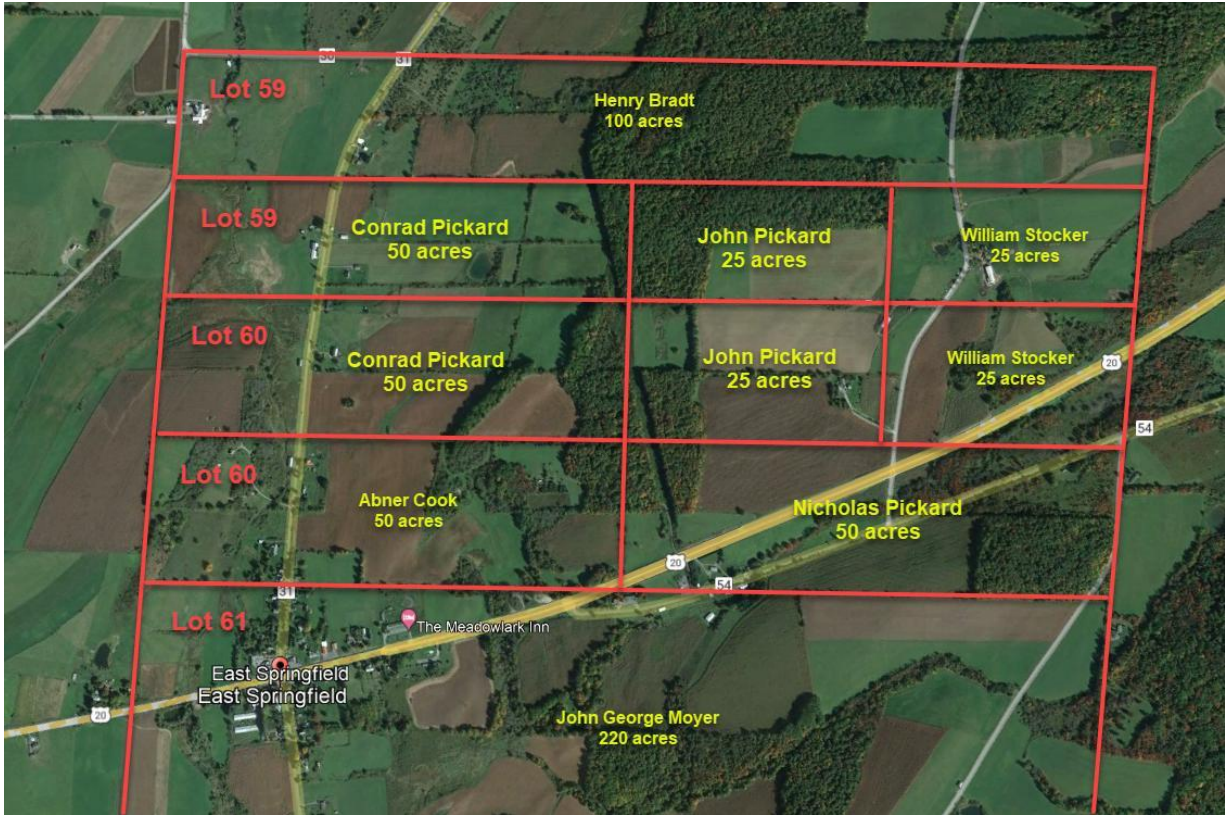
*Monday Sep 1 ' 18: It was a Rainy Day, and I did not sit out. Towards Night I went to Mr Pickards from Mr Crippens. **Mr Nicholas Pickard went with me, the old gentleman and his wife received me with all kindness,** and in the evening the Young People came together again for Instruction, and I spoke to them the words Remember thy Creator &c and after that we had Exercise with my cards again, and the People were much solemnised. We got up somewhat late again. I rested comfortably once more" (pp. 259-60).*

The author believes that the above diary entry, particularly the segment which he has bolded, indicates that it is likely that Nicholas and Anna Barbara resided on these lots near Springfield, died after 18 September 1786, and are buried in the cemetery noted in the article below.

In an article by Bill Pickard (2006), he provides information on a land transfer of Nicholas' son Conrad. In an indenture dated 9 August 1800 concerning, "*the sale of some of Conrad's holdings in lot #60 in the Springfield patent. This land is just north of US 20 at East Springfield and is now split by County Road 31. Conrad Pickard's grave is still visible in a small pioneer cemetery he set aside on his land. It is now overgrown and much smaller than its original 1-2 acres. It is located on the east side of CR31 about 1 mile north of US 20. Conrad and his wife Anna Margaret Walrath settled in Springfield about 1751 and raised his family. His lot, #60, abuts Lot #59 granted to his brother John in 1763. I don't know that John ever settled there but Conrad somehow ended up controlling both sections.*"

Bill Pickard sent two maps to the author which relate to his above quote. These documents are seen below.





Above maps from Bill Pickard superimposed on modern map – Thomas M. Nelson

In an email to the present author, Bill Pickard stated that he believes that the Nicholas Pickard seen in the above maps is the son of Cornelius Pickard, not his father; and that “old Mr. Pickard” is Cornelius Pickard. It will be up to the reader to make their own determination of the evidence.

Conclusion: The Children of Bartholomew and Eva Pickard were: Nicholas, Bartholomew, Dorothy/Dorothea, and Rachael.

The children and grandchildren of Bart and Eva all resided in close proximity, in the Mindenville area, the Windecker Tract, Glen’s Purchase, the Van Horne Patent, and lands along the flats of the Mohawk near Indian Castle. These locations were all in a relatively small circumscribed area. However immediately before the American Revolution there was some dislocation when a group of the family moved to the Susquehanna River in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania on or about 1770 – selling or trading their properties in the Mohawk Valley. The Revolution resulted in a greater split when some joined the Loyalist standard (specifically William Pickard and Lewis Maybe), however most or all who stayed in the Mohawk Valley appear to have allied themselves with the Rebels (Patriots).

Please see other articles on this website for further information on the Pickard family.

David K. Faux

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