

## Valentine Hollingsworth – Original Immigrant

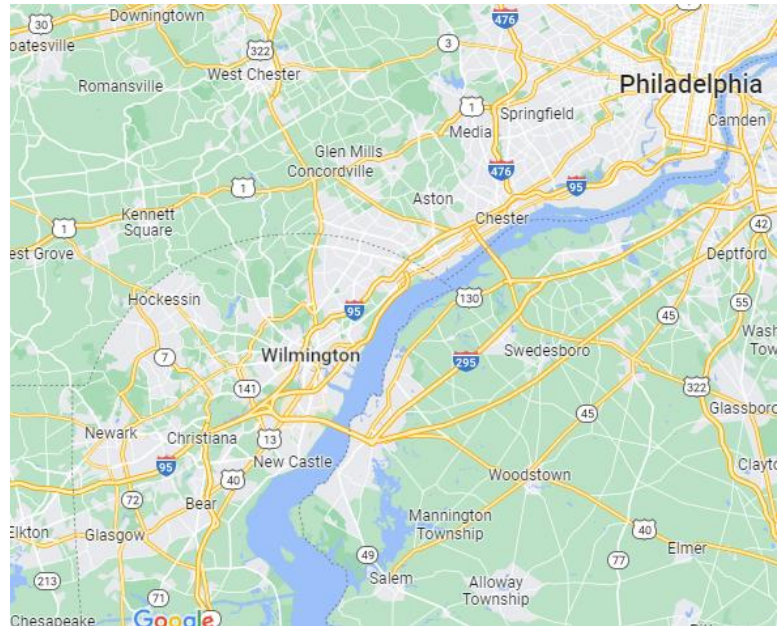
This is a follow-on post to my previous Facebook post on Quakers in our family. As an intro to this post, I will say that it also is long! Usually when you get back this far in time, you find less and less information about the ancestor. However, that is not true for Valentine Hollingsworth! He was apparently a person of note, being friends with William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania. There is tons of information out there about Valentine. So the problem is to trim down the amount of data to make it digestible. As always, be sure to get some coffee, tea, or other beverage of your choice before sitting down to read this!

First, who was Valentine Hollingsworth? He is my (and William's, Tina's, Tara's, Sonny's, Angie's, Louis', and Lisa's) 9th great-grandfather through Lewis, Mary, and Jeri, and the lineage is:

- Me (John Sharp). I am the son of Lewis Sharp (1939 – NA) and Mattie Lou Wilson (1940 – NA). Lewis is the son of:
- Barney Hilliard Sharp (1910 – 1990) and Katherine Lee Alma Lewis (1910 – 1997). Barney is the son of:
- Groves Hilliard Sharp (1886 – 1963) and Bertha Amelia Sharp (1888 – 1974). Bertha is the daughter of:
- James David Sharp (1856 – 1928) and Martha Permelia Smith (1855 – 1914). Martha is the daughter of:
- George Rayford Smith (1822 – 1894) and Mary Ann Kynerd (1819 – 1911). George is the son of:
- Solomon Smith (1785 – 1861) and Elizabeth Crow (1797 – 1889). Elizabeth is the daughter of:
- Reverend Charles Crow, Jr. (1770 – 1845) and Sarah Harlan (1775 – 1820). Sarah is the daughter of:
- Aaron Harlan, Jr. (1752 – 1806) and Elizabeth Stuart (1755 - ?). Aaron is the son of:
- Aaron Harlan, Sr. (1724 - ?) and Sarah Hollingsworth (1722 - ?). Sarah is the daughter of:
- Valentine Hollingsworth, Jr. (1677 – 1757) and Elizabeth Heald (? - ?). Valentine Jr. is the son of:
- Valentine Hollingsworth, Sr. (1632 – 1711) and Ann Calvert (1650 – 1697).

And Valentine Sr. is our original immigrant on this line! Although, we should probably also say that Valentine Jr. immigrated at the same time since he was born before the Hollingsworth (and the Harlans, for that matter) sailed from what is today Belfast, Northern Ireland. I have yet to trace out the Healds, the Calverts, and even the Harlans (completely), so there are probably more original immigrants in this group. A large group of these families arrived in the current area of New Castle, Delaware on December 9, 1682 on the ship Antelope or Antilope. The ship's name is spelled both ways. Remember what Mark Twain said – "It's a damn poor mind that can only think of one way to spell a word."

In the map to the right showing the southeast corner of Pennsylvania, you can see the cities of New Castle, Newark, Chester, Kennet Square – we have ancestors who lived, died, and were buried in all of these places. At the time that Valentine and his friends landed in 1682, what we call Delaware today was just part of the lands that William Penn was granted by the King of England. So it was all “Penn’s Land”.



Valentine (and later most of his children) was born in Segoe Parish, County Armagh in 1632, which is today a part of Portadown, County Armagh, in Northern Ireland. He married his first wife – Ann Rea, sometimes spelled “Ree” and “Wraye” – in 1655. They had 4 children – Mary, Henry, Thomas, and Catherine. Ann died in 1671, and Valentine married Ann Calvert in 1672. Together, they had 7 more children – Samuel, Enoch (died young), Valentine, and Ann were all born in County Armagh; and John, Joseph, and Enoch (again, and again died young) were all born in Penn’s Land (today part of New Castle County, Delaware).

The Hollingsworth joined the Quaker Meeting in Lurgan, County Armagh and were very active in the group. They were the witnesses of many marriages. But as I mentioned in the previous post on Quakers, they were very oppressed – to the point of being banned from meeting, being jailed, even executed. Plus significant values of their crops were taken each year to support the Church of England:

- 1672 - County Ardmagh. Valentine Hollingsworth had taken from him for tithe, by Edmund O’Maghan, for the use of the foresaid, twenty-six stooks [John Note: a “Stook” is a bundle of sheaves of grains that were stood up in the fields to dry before being put away in the barn, you see this in all the old medieval pictures (picture on the right)] of Wheat, three car-loads of Hey, twenty-six stooks of Oats, and twenty-six stooks of Barley, all worth two pounds, eighteen shillings
- 1673 - Valentine Hollingsworth had taken from him for tithe by Edmund Maghan and Thomas Proctor, Corn and Hey worth two pounds. (Here, I insert another entry that does not apply to Valentine, but it does show more of the suffering the Quakers had to bear for their convictions.) Francis Hobson had taken from him for tithe, by the said persons, twenty-six stooks of Wheat, fifteen stooks of Barley, and thirteen stooks of Oats, all worth four pounds. (And if this was not enough – The writer’s per.)



Being also sued in the Bishop's Court at Ardmagh for two pounds tithe of [Milches?] by the aforesaid George Walker, and by a warrant from two Justices of the Peace, upon a definitive sentence was taken by David Mulligan, Constable, the second day of the sixth month, and committed the Gaol of Ardmagh, and was Prisoner two years and four months and about the thirtieth of the tenth month, 1675, died in said Gaol.

- 1674 - Valentine Hollingsworth had taken from him for tithe for the use of the said Thomas Smith, seven loads of Hey, eleven stooks of Wheat, nine stooks of Oats, eleven stooks and a half of Barley, all worth three pounds, four shillings.

You get the idea – this went on until the Hollingsworths, the Harlans, and other ancestors of ours immigrated to America. Valentine's son, Samuel Hollingsworth, in making a deposition before the Mayor of Philadelphia, said: "they came into Pennsylvania in the latter part of 1682, and were at Chester, Pennsylvania, the day that William Penn arrived." From this it appears that Valentine and all his family except Henry, probably arrived a month before the arrival of Penn."

From "Colonial Families of the USA, 1607-1775", Volume VII, Hollingsworth Family, starting on page 291 to the top of page 295:

"He [Valentine] settled on a large plantation of nearly a thousand acres on Shelpot Creek in Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware, about five miles northeast of the present city of Wilmington, and not far from the Fort Christina, or Christiana of the Swedes. That Valentine HOLLINGSWORTH was a man of extraordinary ability and influence is demonstrated from the fact that almost immediately after his arrival in the New World, he was called upon to hold office and participate in public affairs. He was a Member of the First Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania, shortly after William PENN'S advent, that of 1682-1683; also of the Grand Inquest empaneled 25<sup>th</sup> October 1683, to consider the famous case of Charles PICKERING\*\* and others charged with counterfeiting. He served in several subsequent sessions of the Assembly, those of 1687, 1688, 1689, 1695, and 1700, from New Castle County, and was a Justice of the Peace from the same County. He was also a Signer of PENN'S Great Charter and a Member of the Pro-Provincial Council. He d. circa 1711; his wife Ann, d. 17<sup>th</sup> August 1697; both were buried in the old burial ground at Newark, Delaware, which he had presented to the Friends in 1687."

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Sources:

1. "George and Michael Harlan: The Irish Interlude", John H. Harland, <http://www.harlanfamily.org/irish-interlude.html>, reviewed 22-Feb 2023.
2. "George Fox", Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Fox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Fox), reviewed 22-Feb-2023.
3. Immigration of the Irish Quakers into Pennsylvania 1682-1750, A. C. Myers.