

Biographical Sketch

Aldhaus(e), Aldhouse, Althaus(e), Althouse Family

While we have no absolute assurance as to the immediate cause of the emigration of the Althouses who came to America in 1738, it may be presumed that it was due largely to the religious and political unrest prevailing in the Palatinate and adjacent provinces following the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648). The emigrants from the Palatinate (Pfalz) were mostly all of the Reformed religious faith.

The Johannes Christian Althouse Family

Records show that our European forebears left their home in the Village of Elsoff, in the County of Wittgenstein, in the province of Westphalia, which is one of the provinces of Prussia, near to, but not bordering on nor traversed by the River Rhine. The name Althouse is interpreted to be composed of two German words: Alt and Haus and means "an old house." The name refers either to the antiquity of the house in which its possessor resided or to his line of ancestry. Antiquity, under European customs, was considered a sign of rank and distinction.

In arriving in Philadelphia, on the Galley St. Andrew, from Rotterdam, and having qualified and taken the oath of allegiance on October 27, 1738, the three brothers - Johannes Althaus, Johan George Althaus and Johannes Christian Althaus proceeded to the area that is now Bern, Center and Upper Bern Township, now Berks County, formerly called Bern, Lancaster County.

One of the three brothers arriving on the St. Andrew on October 27, 1738, Johannes Christian Althaus, settled on the boundary line between Center and Upper Bern Township on Irish Creek. On March 5, 1739, he secured a warrant for a tract of 146 acres of land in Bern (now Upper Bern Township). Records show that from time to time he took out additional land warrants as follows:

1742 - 48 acres	1766 - 58 acres
1743 - 22 acres	1768 - 28 acres
1751 - 40 3/4 acres	1766 - 60 acres
1754 - 16 acres	1785 - 28 1/8 acres
1754 - 41 acres	
1754 - 61 acres	
1754 - 30 acres	TOTAL - 578 7/8 acres

[Althouse History Committee; "*Family History of Joseph Wilson Althouse*"; June 1976]