

History of the Landes family of Augusta and Rockingham Counties

The following is attributed to J.F. Landes, Goshen, VA, dated February 22nd, 1924

The name Landis or Landes was known to the Swiss, German, and French centuries ago (Landis is French / Landes is German). In the latter part of the sixteenth century, the Landises, among other in Switzerland were noted for their piety and were appropriately called Pietists. The first historical mention of individual members of the Landis family is made of Hans Landis, a pious witness of divine truth, who existed at that time. Hans was a Pietist or Mennonite preacher, described as tall of stature with long black beard mixed with gray, and a masculine voice.

During the reformation in Germany and Switzerland, the protestants were divided into three branches; Lutheran, Zwinglians, and the more radical group known as Anabaptists or Mennonites. The last named were especially flourishing in Bern and Zurich, Switzerland, and on account of their refusal to bear arms or take an oath, were unmercifully persecuted by the authorities. In 1614, Hans Landis was beheaded with a sword after having been imprisoned and cruelly treated. On being lead out cheerfully with a rope to the place of decollation, the executioner, Paul Volmars, let the rope drop and raised both hands to heaven and said, "Oh, God, of mercy to thee be it complained that you, Hans, have fallen into my hands; for God's sake forgive me for what I must do to you, etc." Hans consoled the executioner saying, "I have already forgiven you, may God also forgive you. I am aware you must execute the sentence of the magistracy; be undismayed and see that nothing hinders you in this matter." Whereupon he was beheaded. Later other members of the family were imprisoned and their property confiscated.

About 1660 and afterwards the Landises were driven to the Palatinate country to Zweiburg and Alsace, neighborhood of Strasburg and Manheim. Their properties were generally confiscated and they became farmers for the German nobility. All Mennonites received fair usage from the Hollanders and the people of the United Netherlands. For about two generations history fails to reveal individual members of the Landis family (from 1640 – 1717).

In 1717, three brothers, Reverend Benjamin, Felix, and John Landis, all Swiss Mennonites, having heard of the religious freedom in America, early took advantage of William Penn's liberal policy to settle here. They came from the vicinity of Manheim on the Rhine where they had been driven from Zurich, and purchased land from Penn and the Connestoga Indians in what is now Lancaster County, PA. Like most of the pioneer settlers in the American wilds, these people were comparatively poor in worldly possessions, and had their hands so full of work that they failed, it seems, to keep their family records. They became, however, instinctively American in their progress and proceeded at once to skillfully till the soil which has since made the County of Lancaster known the world over as the "garden spot". Here these people worshipped God according to the dictates of their own consciences in perfect peace. The country improved and the people multiplied. In the course of time, some of the people emigrated to new territory, many of them coming to the Shenandoah Valley, VA.

(The above was partly obtained from a book, "History of the Landis family of Lancaster Pennsylvania", published by D.B. Landis.)

Among the number that emigrated was John Landes (*great, great, great, grandfather*), the oldest known ancestor of one branch of the Landes families in Rockingham and Augusta Counties. He was probably born somewhere in Pennsylvania about 1734-1735 and is supposed to have been a descendant or near relative of the early settlers. He was married to Catherine Miller (*great, great, great, grandmother*) in Pennsylvania about 1760-1765, and had nine children; four boys and five girls. They came to Rockingham County in 1790 when their youngest child (Samuel) was two years old and settled on a farm four miles south of Harrisonburg on the Valley Pike. The farm is now owned by A.U. Wise. The names of John Landes' children were John, Christian, Samuel, Henry, Barbara, Annie, Lizzie, Susan, and Katy.

In 1796 he moved to Augusta County and settled on a farm on Naked Creek about three miles west of Burkettown; the farm is now owned by Tracy and Ruth Croushorn. In connection with this farm he also bought a mill and operated both. Later, probably in 1812 to 1820, he made a division of his property on Naked Creek among his children and moved to Mossy Creek, a short distance below Mount Solon where he and a partner either bought or built a mill which was afterward converted into a paper mill. The records do not show just when and where John Landes and his wife died but they were both buried in the old Landes graveyard on the original farm now owned by Tracy & Ruth Croushorn. The stones were erected to mark the graves but a little house was built over them which stood for many years, which the elder people still living well remember. The graveyard has been fairly well kept and has a good wire fence around it at this time.

The only known relatives of John Landes who came with him from PA were two half-brothers, Benjamin and Daniel. Benjamin was never married, and being of a roving disposition he wandered away, going south and was never heard of again. Daniel married, reared a large family, and died at a ripe old age. He was buried beside his wife at Emmanuel Church near Sangerville.

In the division of the properties of John Landes on Naked Creek, named above, three of the boys, John, Christian, and Samuel, got the land. It is supposed that the land was valued and that the three boys paid out to the other children or to their father. Henry married in Rockingham and lived in that county.

Christian ⁽²⁾ got the "home place" or original tract and the mill. He had five children; Abraham, David, Christian, Mary, and Nancy. David married a Seawright and went west, probably to Indiana.

Christian ⁽³⁾ married a Bell and also went west. The home place and the mill seem to have fallen to Abraham, who operated both until 1864 when Sheridan burned the mill. The mill was rebuilt as a flouring mill but after the death of Abraham in 1865, the mill property, containing twelve to fifteen acres of land, the water right, a house and a barn, was sold to Joseph Calhoun. Mr. Calhoun built a feed mill on the stand and operated it as such for many years; he also had a carding machine in it for some time. A short time before the death of Mr. Calhoun,

the property was advertised and sold under a decree and was bought by Joseph D. Landes, who complied with the terms of the sale, but before he got possession of the property, the mill, house, and barn were burned by incendiaries, all burning at the same time. The farm was sold to J.W. Harshbarger who owned it for a short time. He sold it to Nicholas Croushorn whose heirs still own it.

Abraham was twice married. His first wife was a Kitch from Penn. To them were born five boys and one girl; Benjamin ⁽⁴⁾, Daniel ⁽⁴⁾, David ⁽⁴⁾, Christian ⁽⁴⁾, John ⁽⁴⁾, and Mary ⁽⁴⁾. The second wife was Isabel Finley. They had five children; Josiah ⁽⁴⁾, Wilson ⁽⁴⁾, Marion ⁽⁴⁾, Riley ⁽⁴⁾, and Annie ⁽⁴⁾. Annie was married to a Mr. Eutsler, a Methodist preacher. Of the two daughters of Christian Landes ⁽²⁾, Nancy ⁽³⁾ was married to Daniel Brower, a minister of the Dunkard Church, as they were then called. Among their children was Enoch who was also a minister of the same church. The other daughter, Mary, was married to a Link. At this late date, she and her family have been lost sight of.

Samuel ⁽²⁾ got the second farm lying on southwest adjoining the original tract. This farm was in the Landes family for many years and not until recently was it sold. Howard Young bought it and it now belongs to some of his heirs.

Samuel (2) (*side note from original document states "great grandfather"*) was twice married. His first wife was a Sheets. To this union were born eight children; five boys and three girls. They were Jonathan (1), John (2), Christian (5), Samuel (3), and Valentine (4); the girls were Polly, Catharine, and Betsy.

Jonathan (3) (*side note from original document states "father"*) married a Miss Landes and settled in the neighborhood. He had nine children; John (4), married Rebecca Hellar, and lived in the Roman neighborhood. Cyrus (4) married Sarah Echard and lived near Spring Hill. Edward (4) was never married. Lucy (4) married Ben Landes. Martha (4) married Pat Loyd. Mary (4) was not married. Ellen (4) married John Shiery. Hattie (4) married Joseph S. Harshbarger. Nancy (4) (*side note from original document states "g-mother"*) married A.R. Moyers. John (3) married a Skelton and with his family moved to the west about 1856 and settled in the southeastern part of Illinois on the Wabash River. Not much is known of his children except that his eldest son, Silas Zephaniah, studied law and was elected to Congress, as a Democrat, for several terms back in the 80s. There were several other children.

Valentine (3) and Samuel (3) both married here and with their families moved to Missouri. The three girls all married and settled in Augusta County. Polly (3) married a Shaver and had two daughters. Catherine (3) married a Brewer and Betsy (3) married George Hulvey. The second wife of Samuel (2) was Betsy Welsh (*side note from original document states "great, great grandfather and grandmother"*). They were married about 1825-1830, and had eight children, five boys and three girls, making sixteen children by the two marriages. Abe (3) the oldest, was twice married. His first wife was a Craun. They had two children, a son and daughter. The second wife was a Hollar. They also had children. David (3) the second son, married Lina Cook, near Mt. Sidney and had five children; James ⁽⁴⁾, Jack ⁽⁴⁾, John ⁽⁴⁾, Homer ⁽⁴⁾, and a daughter, Florence, all living in and around Staunton.

William R. (3), the third son, married Mary Stover and had a number of children. Among the older ones were Lizzie (4) (Furry), Sallie (4) (Orebough), Nelie (4) (Shumate), William, and Ernest. There were others whose names I cannot recall.

Daniel B. (3), the fourth son, married Jennie Pumphrey soon after the War Between The States. He engaged in sawmilling, threshing, and farming. Later he sold out and moved to North Garden, Albemarle County, where he bought a farm. His children were Alice (4), K. (4), D. (4), Pike (4), Virgie (4), and others.

George H. (3), married Lydia Pumphrey and followed agricultural pursuits all his life. After making several trades in land he finally bought a farm adjoining that of his father and lived there the rest of his life. He had five children; Aldi (4), Charles (4), Kenney (4) (lives in Missouri), Paul J. (4) (a veterinarian), and Bertie (4), who married Samuel H. Hawkins.

Lydia (3) married Erastus Landes and lived on the "home place", which they purchased after the death of her mother. Their children were John Samuel (4), who married Ida Craun; David H. (4), who married Maggie Fifer; Henry L. (4), who married Sallie Tutwiler; Nannie (4), who married William Fry; Emma (4), who married Samuel Huffman; and Ida (4), who married George Fifer.

Eliza (3) married George M. Cook and lived near Mt. Sidney. Their children were Robert, who married Miss Crickenbarger; Lizzie, who married Newton Landes; Ida, who married William Huffman; and Florence, who married Charlie Reed. Emily Susan (3) died unmarried.

In connection with the two farms named above, there was still another farm farther up Naked Creek near Seawright's Spring, which fell to John Landes (2), another son of the pioneer. He had eight children, four boys and four girls. They were John (3), Henry (3), Samuel (3), Christian (3), Nancy, Catharine, Hanna, and Susan.

John married Nancy Griffith (Griffey) and got the above named farm, and in connection with it he conducted a blacksmith shop. He had five children, two boys and three girls. They were Erastus, William A., Frances, Maria, and Sallie. Erastus (4) married Lydia Landes (an account of which is given under the head of Samuel); William A. (4) married Ellen Alexander (their children were John, Charles, and Wallace); as were Fannie (Link), Nannie (Simmons), Sallie (Simmons), Mattie Reed and Rebecca Baylor.

Frances (4) married Samuel Craun and had eight children: John W., George S., Granville, Ellen (Jordan), Alice (Houff), Etta (Ruff), Julie, and Emma Houff. Maria (4) and Sallie (4), were never married.

Henry (3) went west. One of his descendants was located at Greencastle, Indiana some years ago. Samuel and Christian have been lost sight of. It is supposed they also went west.

Nancy (3) married a Bittle. Catharine (3) and Hanna married Siples. Nothing is known of their descendants. Susan (3) married a Branaman in the Parnassus neighborhood. She had at least two children: Samuel and a daughter who married Robert Thuma of Rockingham County.

Henry (2) married a woman in Rockingham and lived for awhile, at least, in Mount Crawford in a house on the bank of the river south of the Plecker bridge. His children were: David (3), Noah (3), Benjamin (3), William (3), Washington (3), Henry (3), and John (3). The

daughters were Ann ⁽³⁾ (Donson), Betsy ⁽³⁾ (Miller), and Jane ⁽³⁾ (Brown). I have no record of this family except that of Benjamin, who had three sons: Stuart, John, and Frank, all living south of Harrisonburg near the Spring. The descendants of the others live in and around Harrisonburg and in east Rockingham.

The five daughters all married; four of them lived in Augusta and Rockingham counties. The fifth girl, Lizzie, married an (*unreadable*) three children; John ⁽³⁾, Susan ⁽³⁾, and (*unreadable*) ⁽³⁾. Her husband died. She then married a Baker and moved to Tennessee. Nothing is known of her descendants.

Annie ⁽²⁾ married Godfrey Bolton and lived near Pleasant Valley, Rockingham County. She had six children, three boys and three girls. They were Christian never married; Samuel moved to Tennessee; Valentine married and lived in the neighborhood of Pleasant Valley. He had two sons: Homer ⁽⁴⁾ and Christian ⁽⁴⁾, and probably other children.

Katy married Abraham Huffman and lived near Stribling Springs. She had three daughters; all married and lived in the same territory. One married Harvey Showalter and had one son, Baldwin. Another married Alex Horn and had two children, a son and a daughter. The son, Bud, lives in Stokesville and the daughter married John Douglas and lives in the Mount Zion neighborhood. The third daughter married Rev. A.S. Hammack (*sic?*; *almost unreadable*) of the United Brethren Church. He lives in Dayton.

Katy (2) married a Byerly (probably Joseph) and lived in the Mount Meridian neighborhood. She had four children, two boys and two girls. The boys were Benjamin ⁽³⁾ and Daniel ⁽³⁾; one girl was Lydia ⁽³⁾ but the other's name is unknown. Benjamin reared a family but I do not know about Daniel. Lydia married a Moyers. Her (*unreadable*) lost sight of. The other daughter married Robert Wright. She had a number of children. Among them were John of Spring Creek; Robert and James of Bridgewater; and Mrs. H.G. Miller, also of Bridgewater.

Another daughter, Barbara, was born around 1780 and married Daniel Landes somewhere in Pennsylvania not later than 1790 (*unsure*; *almost unreadable*). It is (*unreadable*) that they came to the Valley with her parents. It is not known where they first settled but the latter part of their lives was spent on the farm on which the Natural Chimneys stand between Mt. Solon and Sangerville. Barbara died there and Daniel died later in the home of his son, Jacob, on Naked Creek. They reared ten children to maturity, six boys and four girls: John ⁽³⁾, Christian ⁽³⁾, David ⁽³⁾, Daniel ⁽³⁾, Jacob ⁽³⁾, and Samuel ⁽³⁾; Polly, Katy, Lydia, and Nancy.

Polly, one of the older children, was born about 1800 and married Peter Michael of Augusta County about 1820. They had eight children, six boys and two girls: David, John, Daniel, Peter, Wesley, and Riley; Hanna (Murray) and Betsy (Fox). This family moved to Ohio about 1820 and settled in Highland County a few miles south of New Vienna.

John married Maria Wenger and lived on a farm a few miles south of Harrisonburg on the Valley Pike near Stone Spring. The farm is owned by Silas Good. Their children were named David, Daniel, and Samuel; Annie, Lizzie, and Polly. David ⁽⁴⁾ and Daniel ⁽⁴⁾ were the only two that married. The others lived together on the old homestead for awhile, then sold a part of the farm and built new on the rest and lived together the rest of their lives.

Christian ⁽³⁾, one of the older boys, married Elizabeth Wenger and lived in a brick house in the southern suburbs of Mt. Sidney, where he conducted his farm and ran a butcher shop. He had seven children: John, Joseph, Daniel, Jacob, Lydia, Lizzie, and Margaret.

John married Anna Harshbarger and had a number of children. Only three grew to maturity, Lizzie ⁽⁵⁾ (Grove), Nettie ⁽⁵⁾ (Rankin), and Josie ⁽⁵⁾ (Moore; this is Marlin Moore's grandmother).

Joseph ⁽⁴⁾ married and lived in the New Hope neighborhood.

Daniel ⁽⁴⁾ married Columbia Tutwiler and lived in the Mt. Meridian neighborhood. They had one daughter, Mary Jane ⁽⁵⁾, who married John H. Sipe.

Jacob ⁽⁴⁾ was never married. He either died or was killed during the Civil War.

The girls all married. Lydia ⁽⁴⁾ married Christian Miller, Lizzie ⁽⁴⁾ married Eli Garber, and Margaret ⁽⁴⁾ married Martin Cline.

David ⁽³⁾ married Katy Ann Reeves and lived on a farm on North River between Mt. Solon and Sangerville. Mary ⁽⁴⁾ (Marshall), Amanda ⁽⁴⁾ (Vance), Minerva ⁽⁴⁾ (Karhart), Howard ⁽⁴⁾, Henry ⁽⁴⁾, Luther ⁽⁴⁾, Emmet ⁽⁴⁾, Allen ⁽⁴⁾, and Jackson ⁽⁴⁾.

Daniel ⁽³⁾ married a Ralston and had two children, Frank and Mary. They moved to Upshur County, West Virginia before the Civil War.

Samuel ⁽³⁾ married Peggy Shaver. They had a number of children, among them were John ⁽⁴⁾, Daniel B. ⁽⁴⁾, Peter ⁽⁴⁾, Jared ⁽⁴⁾, Jones ⁽⁴⁾, and a daughter, Alzina A. (A.A. Morgan). They also moved to Upshur County, West Virginia when their children were small. Some of their descendants are still there.

Jacob ⁽³⁾, one of the younger children of Daniel and Barbara Landes, was born in 1823 and died in 1898. He married Lydia Harshbarger in 1843. To this union were born six children, four boys and two girls. The eldest child, Levi H. ⁽⁴⁾, was born in 1845. He married Lou Wilbarger and had two children, Claude ⁽⁵⁾ and Dora ⁽⁵⁾. Claude (*Claude Jr.'s father and Don Landes' grandfather*) married and lives near Mt. Sidney. Dora died when she was nearly grown. Joseph D. ⁽⁴⁾, the second son, was born in 1847. He married Mary Landes and had seven children, three boys and four girls. Fannie ⁽⁵⁾, the oldest, married William Reed and lives in Staunton. William F. ⁽⁵⁾ married Fannie Evans and lives at Cave Station. Charles ⁽⁵⁾ has his second wife and lives near Crimora. Joseph E. ⁽⁵⁾ married Myrtle Reed and has a number of children. Ada ⁽⁵⁾ married Robert Corbin and lives near Cave Station and has several children. Maggie ⁽⁵⁾ married Kenny Miller and lives on the Glade.

Lettie ⁽⁵⁾ (*Tracy Croushorn's mother*) married George N. Croushorn and had five children. Her husband died a few years ago. She lives on the Croushorn farm which is the original farm purchased in 1796, by John Landes ⁽¹⁾, the pioneer.

John G. ⁽⁴⁾, the third son, was born in 1850. He married Sue (*unreadable, maybe Chisler?*) in 1876. They had two children, Ella ⁽⁵⁾ and Bernard ⁽⁵⁾. Both died when they were small. He lived in Rockingham all his married life. In 1900 he bought a farm in the suburbs of Bridgewater and lived there until his death which occurred in 1916 from lockjaw.

Jacob F. ⁽⁴⁾, the fourth son, was born in 1852 at the Natural Chimneys. He spent his early manhood teaching in the public schools of Augusta County and in Ford County, Illinois. In 1886 he married Sallie Clark of Augusta County and engaged in the mercantile business in Centreville in partnership with H.V. Bell, under the firm name of "Landes and Bell". While living here, two daughters were born, Augusta ⁽⁵⁾ and Lucy ⁽⁵⁾. On account of the confinement in the store he sold out and in 1889 moved to Rockingham where he bought a farm near Bridgewater. Here, a son, Russell Clark ⁽⁵⁾, was born in 1892. For twenty-six years he worked this farm and educated his three children. In 1915 he exchanged his farm at Bridgewater for a larger one near Craigsville in the southern part of Augusta County.

Augusta ⁽⁵⁾ married Stuart Poole, a native of Grayson County, Virginia. Lucy ⁽⁵⁾ married Maurice Moore of Jackson, Georgia, and lives there. Russell ⁽⁵⁾ married Bessie Ritchie of Kentucky.

Barbara Ann ⁽⁴⁾ (*Ralph's great-great-grandmother*), the fifth child, was born in 1854 and was married to John W. Craun in 1873. She had two children, a son and a daughter. The son, Walter ⁽⁵⁾ (*Ralph's uncle*), died after reaching maturity. Fannie ⁽⁵⁾ (*Ralph's mother*), the daughter, married Henry C. Coffman and lives near Mt. Sidney. She has a number of children.

Fannie ⁽⁴⁾, the youngest child, was born in 1857 and married M.L. Crickenbarger in 1886. She has no children.

Lydia ⁽³⁾, one of the younger daughters, married John Ruff in the early 40s. They lived near Sangerville and reared a family of nine children; George Will, Daniel, Harvey, Jacob, and John Clark; and Mary, Hattie, Janie, and Sallie.

George Will ⁽⁴⁾ died or was killed during the War. Daniel ⁽⁴⁾ was a Confederate soldier, and after the war he married a Miss Revercomb. They had one son, Archie ⁽⁵⁾, who works in a bank in Harrisonburg, and several daughters.

Harvey ⁽⁴⁾ married Fannie Messersmith and lived on a farm near Sangerville. They had a number of children, nearly all of them living in the Sangerville neighborhood.

Jacob ⁽⁴⁾ married Margaret Kiracofe and lived on North River. He had no children.

John Clark ⁽⁴⁾ married Etta Craun and lived on Naked Creek. He had about seven children.

Mary ⁽⁴⁾ married D.P. Shank. They live on Cooks Creek near Mt. Crawford. They have a number of children, all married and somewhat scattered. Hettie ⁽⁴⁾ married Reuben Grandle and moved to Ohio. Janie ⁽⁴⁾ married Daniel Garber and moved to West Virginia, probably Pocahontas County. Sallie ⁽⁴⁾, the youngest child, married Ashby Cupp and lives in Mt. Solon.

Katy ⁽³⁾ married a Mr. Andrew and moved to Barbour County, West Virginia, before the Civil War. Nothing has been heard from them for many years.

Nancy ⁽³⁾, the youngest child, was not married and died when she was a young woman.

Susan ⁽²⁾ married a Mr. Maiden. Nothing is known of her unless the following story is correct. The story is that when John Landes ⁽¹⁾ died, his son, Samuel, settled up the estate. When the division was made it is said that he, Samuel, carried one horse-back one share to a sisten in Ohio. The story seems plausible since this is the only girl not accounted for.

Note: The above was written from what records were at hand, from tradition, and what the writer remembered. This is not claimed to be correct in every respect but the main points are fairly well established.

J.F. Landes
Goshen, VA
February 22nd, 1924

I have retyped this document as accurately as possible. A scan of the original is shown further below. The document was made available by Ed Young. I myself am an indirect descendant in the Young family, my wife being Beverly Alexander Robertson, her grandmother being Edna Young.

(T. Keith Robertson, Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 417 Salem Church Road, Mt. Sidney, VA, 540-234-8161, www.SalemLutheranVa.org)

see page 6
1
H.C.
History of the Landis family of Augusta in Rockingham
Explanation: Small figures over name indicates the generation.
Names in parentheses indicate husband or wife.

The name Landis or Landes was known to the Swiss, German and French centuries ago (Landis, French, and Landes, German). In the latter part of the sixteenth century, the Landises, among other in Switzerland were noted for their piety and were appropriately called Pietists. The first historical mention of individual members of the Landis family is made of Hans Landis, a pious witness of divine truth, who existed at that time. Hans was a Pietist or Mennonite preacher, described as tall of stature with long black beard mixed with gray, and a masculine voice.

During the reformation in Germany and Switzerland, the protestants were divided into three branches, Lutherans, Zwinglians and the more radical group known as Anabaptists or Mennonites. The last named were especially flourishing in Bern and Zurich, Switzerland, and on account of their refusal to bear arms or take oath were unmercifully persecuted by the authorities. In 1614, he (Hans Landis) was beheaded with a sword after having been imprisoned and cruelly treated. On being lead out cheerfully with a rope to the place of decollation the executioner, Paul Volmars, let the rope drop and raised both hands to heaven and said: "O, God, of mercy to thee be it complained that you, Hans, have fallen into my hands; for God's sake forgive me for what I must do to you, etc." Hans consoled the executioner

saying: "I have already forgiven you, may God also forgive you. I am aware you must execute the sentence of the magistracy; be undismayed and see that nothing hinders you in this matter!" whereupon he was beheaded.

Later other members of the family were imprisoned and their property confiscated.

About 1660 and afterwards, the Landis were driven to the Palatinate country

to Zweiburg and Alsace, neighborhood of Strasburg and Mannheim. Their properties were generally confiscated; and they became farmers for the German nobility.

All Mennonites received fair usage from the Hollanders and the people of the United Netherlands. For about two generations, history fails to reveal individual members of the Landis family--that is from 1640-1717.

In 1717, three brothers, Reverend Benjamin, Felix, and John Landis, all Swiss Mennonites, having heard of the religious freedom in America, early took advantage of William Penn's liberal policy to settle here. They came from the vicinity of Mannheim on the Rhine where they had been driven from Zurich, Switzerland, and purchased land from Penn and the Conestogee Indians in what

is now Lancaster County. Like most of the pioneer settlers in the American wilds, these people were comparatively poor in worldly possessions, and had their hands so full of work that they failed, it seems, to keep their family records. They became, however, instinctively American in their progress and proceeded at once to skillfully till the soil which has since made the County of Lancaster known the world over as the "garden spot". Here these people

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worshipped God according to the dictates of their own consciences in perfect peace. The country improved and the people multiplied. In the course of time, some of the people emigrated to new territory, many of them coming to the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia.

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Among the number that emigrated was John Landis, the oldest known ancestor of one branch of the Landis families in Rockingham and Augusta Counties.

He was probably *great-great-great grand father* born somewhere in Penn., about 1730-1745 and is supposed to have been a descendant or near relative of the early settlers. He was

married to Catherine Miller in Pennsylvania about 1760-1765, and had nine *great-great-great grand mother* children--four boys and five girls. They came to Rockingham County in 1790

when their youngest child (Samuel) was two years old and settled on a farm

four miles south of Harrisonburg on the Valley pike. The farm is now owned by

A. U. Wise. In 1796 he moved to Augusta County and settled on a farm on

Naked Creek about three miles west of Burkettown--the farm is now owned by

the Crousherns. In connection with this farm he also bought a mill and operated

both. Later, probably in 1812 to 1820 he made a division of his property

on Naked Creek among his children and moved to Mossy Creek, a short distance

below Mt Solon where he and a partner either bought or built a mill which

was afterward converted into a paper mill. The records do not show just

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when and where John Landes and his wife died but they were both buried in

the old Landes graveyard on the original farm now owned by the Croushorns.

*Tracy &
Ruth*

No stones were erected to mark the graves but a little house was built over them which stood for many years, which, the older people, still living well remember. The graveyard has been fairly well kept and has a good wire fence around it at this time.

The only known near relatives of John Landes who came with him from Pa.

were two half-brothers--Benjamin and Daniel. Benjamin was never married,

and being of a roving disposition he wandered away, going south and was never

heard of again. Daniel married, reared a large family and died at a ripe

old age. He was buried beside his wife at Emanuel Church near Sangerville.

The names of the children of John Landes the first immigrant to the Shenandoah

Valley by that name were: John, Christian, Samuel, Henry, Barbara, Annie,

Lizzie, Susan and Katy.

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three of the boys--John Christian and Samuel--got the land. It is supposed

that the land was valued and that the three boys paid out to the other

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five children: Abraham, David, Christian, Mary and Nancy. David married

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a Seawright and went west, probably to Indiana.

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The farm was sold to J. W. Harshbarger who owned it for a short time. He sold it to Nicholas Croushorn whose heirs still own it. Abraham was twice married. His first wife was a Kitch from Penn. To them were born five boys and one girl. Benjamin, Daniel, David, Christian, and John --the daughter was Mary. The second wife was Isabel Finley--They had five children--

Josiah, Wilson, Marion, Riley, and Annie. Annie was married to a Mr. Eutsler,

2 3

a Methodist preacher. Of the two daughters of Christian Landes, Nancy was married to Daniel Brower, a minister of the Dunkard Church, as they were then called. Among their children was Enoch who was also a minister of the

6

same church. The other daughter, Mary, was married to a Link. At this late date, she and her family have been lost sight of.

²
Samuel got the second farm lying on the south-west adjoining the original tract. This farm was in the Landes family for many years and not until recently was it sold. Howard Young bought it and it now belongs to some of his heirs.

²
Samuel was twice married. His first wife was a Sheets. To this union were ¹ ² ⁵
great-grandfather born eight children: five boys and three girls viz: Jonathan, John, Christian, Samuel, and Valentine, --the girls were Polly, Catharine, and Betsy.

³
Jonathan, married a Miss Landes, and settled in the neighborhood. He had ⁴
great-grandfather nine children; John, married Rebecca Hollar, and lived in the Roman neighborhood.

⁴
Cyrus, B., married Sarah Echard and lived near Spring Hill.

⁴ ⁴ ⁴
Edward was never married. Lucy married Ben Landes, Martha married Pat Loyd.

⁴ ⁴ ⁴
Mary was not married. Ellen married John Shiery, Hattie married Joseph S.

⁴ ³
Harshbarger. Nancy married A. R. Meyers. John married a Skelton and with his *g-Mother*

family moved to the west about 1856 and settled in the southeastern part of

Illinois on the Wabash River. Not much is known of his children except that

his eldest son, Silas Zephaniah, studied law and was elected to Congress,

as a Democrat, for several terms back in the 80s. There were several other children.

6

7

³ Valentine and ³ Samuel both married here and with their families moved to Missouri. The ~~three~~ girls all married and settled in Augusta County.

³ Pelly married a Shaver and had two daughters. ³ Catharine married a Brewer and

³ Betsy married George Hulvey. The second wife of Samuel was Betsy Welsh. They ² were married about 1825-1830, and had eight children--five boys and three *great-great-grand father and mother*

³ girls--making sixteen children by the two marriages. ³ Abe, the oldest, was twice married. His first wife was a Craun. They had two children--a son and a daughter. The second wife was a Hollar--They also had children.

³ ² David, the second son, married Lina Cook, near Mt. Sidney and had five children, viz: ⁴ James, ⁴ Jack, ⁴ John ⁴ F., ⁴ Homer, and a daughter, Florence, all living in and around Staunton.

³ ³ William R., the third son, married Mary Stever and had a number of children.

Among the older ones were: ⁴ Lizzie, ⁴ (Furry), ⁴ Sallie ⁴ (Orebough), ⁴ Nollie (Shumate), William, and Ernest. There were others whose names I cannot recall.

⁴ ³ Daniel B., the fourth son, married Jennie Pumphrey soon after the War between the States. He engaged in Sawmilling, threshing and farming. Later he sold out and moved to North Garden, Albemarle County, where he bought a farm. His children were ⁴ Alice, ⁴ K., ⁴ D., ⁴ Pike, ⁴ Virgie, and others.

⁵ ³ George H., married Lydia Pumphrey and followed agricultural pursuits all his life. After making several trades in land he finally bought a farm adjoining

that of his father and lived there the rest of his life. He had five children,
 viz: Alden⁴, Charles⁴, Kenney⁴, (lives in Missouri), Paul J.⁴, (a veterinarian),
 and Bertie⁴, who married Samuel H. Hawkins.

³
 Lydia married Erastus Landes and lived on the "home place", which they pur-
 chased after the death of her mother. Their children were: John Samuel⁴,
 who married Ida Craun, Newton⁴ married Lizzie Cook, George⁴ married Fannie
 Craun, David H.⁴ married Maggie Fifer, Henry L.⁴ married Sallie Tutwiler,
 Nannie⁴ married William Fry, Emma⁴ married Samuel Huffman and Ida⁴ married
 George Fifer.

³
 Eliza married George M. Cook and lived near Mt. Sidney. Their children
 were: Robert married Miss Crickenbarger, Lizzie married Newton Landes, Ida
 married William Huffman and Florence married Charlie Reed.

³
 Emily Susan died unmarried.

In connection with the two farms names above, there was still another
 farm farther up Naked Creek near Sawright's Spring which fell to John Landes²,
 another son of the pioneer. He had eight children--four boys and four girls,
 viz: John³, Henry³, Samuel³, and Christian³; and Nancy, Catharine, Hanna, and
 Susan.

³
 John married Nancy Griffith(Griffey) and got the above named farm and in
 connection with it, he conducted a blacksmith shop--He had five children--

9
two boys and three girls, viz: Erastus, William A., Frances, Maria and

4
Sallie. Erastus married Lydia Landes(an account of which is given under

4
the head of Samuel--William A., married Ellen Alexander--John, Charles,

Wallace(children of William A.); as were Fannie(Pink), Nannie(Simmons),

Sallie(Simmons), Mattie Reed and Rebecca Baylor.

4
Frances married Samuel Craun and had eight children: John V., George S.,

Granville, Ellen(Jordan), Alice(Houfff) Etta(Ruff), Julia and Emma Houff.

4 4
Maria and Sallie were never married.

3
Henry went west. One of his descendants was located at Greencastle, Indiana
some years ago. Samuel and Christian have been lost sight of. It is supposed
they also went west.

3 3
Nancy married a Bittle. Catharine and Hanna married Siples. Nothing is

3
known of their descendants. Susan married a Branaman in the Parnassus
neighborhood. She had at least two children: Samuel and a daughter who
married Robert Thuma of Rockingham County.

2
Henry married a woman in Rockingham and lived for awhile, at least, in
Mt. Crawford in a house on the bank of the river south of the Plecker

3 3 3 3 3
bridge. His children were: David, Noah, Benjamin, William, Washington,

3 3 3 3
Henry, and John. The daughters were Ann (Donson), Betsy (Miller), and

3
Jane (Brown). I have no record of this family except that of Benjamin

who had three sons: Stuart, John and Frank, all living south of Harrisonburg

near the Spring. The descendants of the others live in and around Harrisonburg and in east Rockingham.

The five daughters all married; four of them lived in Augusta and Rockingham counties. The fifth girl, Lizzie married an Epperly and had three children;

John, Susan, and Willie. Her husband died. She then married a Baker and moved to Tennessee. Nothing is known of her descendants.

Annie married Godfrey Bolton and lived near Pleasant Valley, Rockingham

County. She had six children--three boys and three girls: Christian never

married. Samuel moved to Tennessee. Valentine married and lived in the

neighborhood of Pleasant Valley. He had two sons: Homer and Christian, and probably other children.

Katy married Abraham Huffman and lived near Stribling Springs. She had

three daughters: all married and lived in the same territory. One married

Harvey Showalter and had one son, Baldwin. Another married Alex Horn and

had two children--a son and a daughter. The son, Bud, lives in Stokesville

and the daughter married John Douglas and lives in the Mt. Zion neighborhood.

The third daughter married Rev. Mr. Hammack of the United Brethren Church.

She had two children--a son and a daughter. The daughter married Alex.

Horn. The son, Rev. A. S. Hammack is a prominent minister of the United

Brethren Church. He lives in Dayton.

11

²
Katy married a Byerly (probably Joseph) and lived in the Mt. Meridian neighborhood. She had children--two boys and two girls: Benjamin and Daniel;

Lydia and another daughter. Benjamin reared a family, but I do not know about Daniel. Lydia married a Hoyers. Her descendants have been lost sight of. The other daughter married Robert Wright. She had a number of children; among them were John of Spring Creek, Robert and James C. of Bridgewater and Mrs. H. G. Miller also of Bridgewater.

²
Another daughter, Barbara, was born around 1780 and married Daniel Landes somewhere in Pennsylvania not later than 1799. It is supposed that they came to the Valley with her parents. It is not known where they first settled but the latter part of their lives was spent on the farm on which the Natural Chimneys stand between Mt. Solon and Sangerville. Barbara died there and Daniel died later in the home of his son, Jacob, on Naked Creek. They

reared ten children to maturity--six boys and four girls, viz: John, Christian, David, Daniel, Jacob, and Samuel; Polly, Katy, Lydia and Nancy.

Polly, one of the older children was born about 1800 and married Peter Michael of Augusta County about 1820. They had eight children--six boys and two girls, viz: David, John, Daniel, Peter, Wesley and Riley; Hanna (Murray), and Betsy (Fox). This family moved to Ohio about 1830 and settled in Highland County a few miles south of New Vienna.

³
John married Maria Wenger and lived on a farm a few miles south of
Harrisonburg on the Valley Pike near Stone Spring. The farm is owned by
Silas Good. Their children were named David, Daniel and Samuel; Annie,
⁴ Lizzie and Polly. ⁴ David and Daniel were the only two that married. The
others lived together on the old homestead for awhile, then sold a part of
the farm and built new on the rest and lived together the rest of their
lives.

³
Christian, one of the older boys, married Elizabeth Wenger and lived in
a brick house in the southern suburbs of Mt. Sidney, where he conducted his
farm and ran a butcher shop. He had seven children, viz: John, Joseph,
Daniel, Jacob, Lydia, Lizzie and Margaret.

⁴
John married Anna Harshbarger and had a number of children. Only three grew
to maturity. ⁵ Lizzie (Grove), ⁵ Nettie (Rankin), and ⁵ Josie (Moore).

⁴
Joseph married and lived in the New Hope neighborhood.

⁴
Daniel married Columbia Tutwiler and lived in the Mt. Meridian neighborhood.

⁵
They had one daughter, Mary Jane, who married John H. Sipe.

⁴
Jacob was never married. He either died or was killed during the Civil War.

⁴ The girls all married. ⁴ Lydia married Christian Miller. Lizzie married

⁴ Eli Garber, and Margaret married Martin Cline.

³
David married Katy Ann Reeves and lived on a farm on North River between

*✓ maiden moore's grand-
mother*

13

⁴ Mt. Selon and Sangerville. ⁴ Mary (Marshall), ⁴ Amanda (Vance), ⁴ Minerva (Earhart),
⁴ Howard, ⁴ Henry, ⁴ Luther, ⁴ Emmet, ⁴ Allen, and ⁴ Jackson.

³
Daniel married a Ralston and had two children--Frank and Mary. They moved
to Upshur County, West Virginia before the Civil War.

³
Samuel married Peggy Shaver. They had a number of children, among them were
⁴ John, ⁴ Daniel B., ⁴ Peter, ⁴ Jared, ⁴ Jones, and a daughter, ⁴ Alzina A. (A. A. Morgan).
They also moved to Upshur County, West Virginia when their children were small.
Some of their descendants are still there.

³
Jacob, one of the younger children of Daniel and Barbara Landes, was born
in 1823 and died in 1898. He married Lydia Harshbarger in 1843. To this
union were born six children--four boys and two girls. The eldest child,

⁴
Levi H. was born in 1845. He married Lou Wilbarger and had two children--

⁵ Claude and ⁵ Dora. Claude married and lives near Mt. Sidney. Dora died when

⁶ she was nearly grown. ⁴ Joseph D., the second son, was born in 1847. He

⁶ married Mary Landes and had seven children--three boys and four girls.

⁵ Fannie, the eldest, married William Reed and lives in Staunton. ⁵ William F.

⁵ married Fannie Evans and lives at Cave Station. Charles has his second wife

⁵ and lives near Crimora. ⁵ Joseph E. married Myrtle Reed and has a number of

⁵ children. Ada married Robert Corbin and lives near Cave Station and has

⁵ several children. Maggie married Kenny Miller and lives on the Glade.

*Claude H. father
Don Landes
J. father*

Tracy Croushorn
mother

14

³
Lettie married George N. Croushorn and had five children. Her husband died
a few years ago. She lives on the Croushorn farm which is the original farm

¹
purchased in 1796, by John Landes, the pioneer.

⁴
John G., the third son, was born in 1850. He married Sue Whisler in 1876.

⁵ ⁵
They had two children--Ella and Bernard. Both died when they were small. He

Lived in Rockingham all his married life. In 1900 he bought a farm in the
suburbs of Bridgewater and lived there until his death which occurred in
1916 from lockjaw.

⁴
Jacob F., the fourth son, was born in 1852 at the Natural Chimneys. He
spent his early manhood teaching in the public schools of Augusta County and
in Ford County, Illinois. In 1886, he married Sallie Clark of Augusta County
and engaged in the mercantile business in Centreville in partnership with

H. V. Bell, under the firm name of "Landes and Bell". While living here, two

⁵ ⁵
daughters were born--Augusta and Lucy. On account of the confinement in the
store he sold out and in 1889 moved to Rockingham where he bought a farm

⁵
near Bridgewater. Here, a son, Russell Clark, was born in 1892.

For twenty six years he worked this farm and educated his three children.

In 1915, he exchanged his farm at Bridgewater for a larger one near Craigs-
ville in the southern part of Augusta County.

⁵
Augusta married Stuart Poole, a native of Grayson County, Virginia.

⁵
Lucy married Maurice Moore of Jackson, Georgia, and lives there.

⁵
Russell married Bessie Ritchie of Kentucky.

⁴
*Ralph's
next-great
grand mother* — Barbara Ann, the fifth child, was born in 1854 and was married to John W.

Craun in 1873. She had two children--a son and a daughter. The son, ⁵Walter,

died after reaching maturity. ⁵Fannie, the daughter, married Henry C.

Ralph's Uncle
Ralph's Mother
Coffman and lives near Mt. Sidney. She has a number of children.

⁴
Fannie, the youngest child, was born in 1857 and married M. L. Crickenbarger in 1896. She had no children.

³
Lydia, one of the younger daughters, married John Ruff in the early 40s.

They lived near Sangerville and reared a family of nine children--George Will, Daniel, Harvey, Jacob, and John Clark; and Mary, Hattie, Janie and

⁴ Sallie. ⁴George Will died or was killed during the War. ⁴Daniel was a

Confederate soldier; and after the war, he married a Miss Revercomb. They

⁵had one son, Archie, who works in a bank in Harrisonburg, and several

⁴daughters. ⁴Harvey married Fannie Messersmith and lived on a farm near

Sangerville. They had a number of children, nearly all of them living in

⁴the Sangerville neighborhood. ⁴Jacob married Margaret Kiracofe and lived

⁴on North River. He had no children. ⁴John Clark married Etta Craun and lived

on Naked Creek. He had about seven children.

⁴Mary married D. P. Shank--They live on Cooks Creek near Mt. Crawford. They

16

have a number of children, all married and somewhat scattered. Hettie⁴

married Reuben Grandle and moved to Ohio. Janie⁴ married Daniel Garber and

moved to West Virginia, probably Pocahontas County. Sallie⁴, the youngest

child, married Ashby Culp and lives in Mt. Solon.

³ Katy married a Mr. Andrew and moved to Barbour County, West Virginia, before

the Civil War. Nothing has been heard from them for many years.

³ Nancy, the youngest child, was not married and died when she was a young

woman.

² Susan married a Mr. Maiden. Nothing is known of her unless the following

story is correct. The story is that when John Landes died, his son, Samuel,¹

settled up the estate. When the division was made it is said that he, Samuel,

carried one horse-back one share to a sister in Ohio. The story seems

plausible since this is the only girl not accounted for.

Note: The above was written from what records were at hand, from tradition,

and what the writer remembered. This is not claimed to be correct in

every respect but the main points are fairly well established.

Feb. 22, 1924

J. F. Landes

Goshen, Va.