

My Mange Families
in the
Northern Liberties
1750-1800

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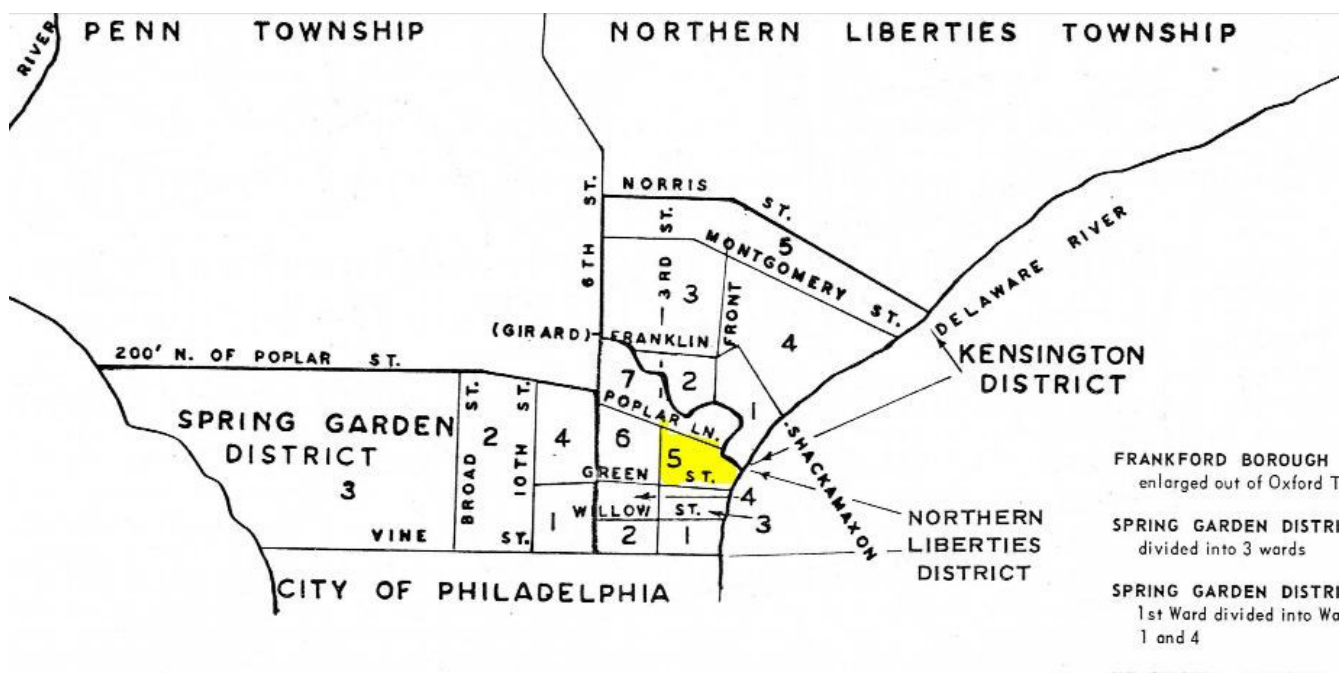
SPECIAL THANKS
to N. Eттensperger
**Her sharing and insights have been invaluable,
and parts of this article are based on her work.**

Introduction

It seems like years ago now, (only 6), that Cousin J and I traced out Mann family from Michigan back to the Menge family of Soedel (Södel), Hessen, Germany. We learned that three brothers, Heinrich, Johannes, and Ernst, and possibly one of their sisters, came to Philadelphia (PHL) in 1754. Our ancestor, Ernest Mann, moved to New Jersey before the Revolution, and his descendants were the ones who later migrated to Michigan.

A note about surname spellings: The most common spelling used in Germany was Menge, and in early PHL, it was most often spelled Mange, and eventually the spelling became Man/Mann.

But what was life like for Mange brothers in PHL? After all this time, I started to look into that question more closely. For the most part, the properties associated with Mange were located in the [district of Northern Liberties](#) (as opposed to the [Northern Liberties Township](#)). The following map shows the location of the NL district with the ward highlighted where our relations lived (between Poplar and Green Sts, and from the Delaware River to 3rd St.)



In this article, I'm going to talk about the Mange brothers in the Norther Liberties in age order. Here is a summary of their family group:

- Heinrich "Henry" Mange: 1715-1773, married Anna Margaretha Dittmer in Germany.
- Johannes "John" Mange: 1722-1790, married first Eurphronica Kress (widow of Christian Reinhardt), married second Anna Catharina Wolf, both in PHL.
- Ernst "Ernest" Mange: abt 1731-1816, married first Catharina Klockner (widow of Jurg Ernst), married second Maria Magdalena Sommer, both in PHL. (Ernst is my direct ancestor.)

It's also worth noting that the Mange brothers also had two maternal cousins in PHL:

- Martin Kreuder (various spellings), who apparently came to PHL earlier, returned to Germany where he married Susanna Louise Bonne, and then returned to PHL again. Martin Kreuder ran a tavern called the Gold Swan on 3rd Street between Arch and Cherry in PHL.



- Anna Catharina Kreuder (Martin's sister) married Adolph Gillman in PHL in 1756. Their eldest daughter married Peter Deshong.

Finally, it is especially important to note that it seems very likely that one or more Mange females also made their way to PHL. The name of Margaretha Mange appears in the PHL church book records, and there does seem to be evidence to suggest that youngest Freistett Sommer brother, Martin, might have married a Mange.

Henry Mange

Henry married Anna Margaretha Dittmar in Germany in 1747, and they had three children before their emigration to PHL in 1754. Henry was a stocking weaver, and he lived near [Poole's Bridge](#).¹

Henry's oldest daughter, Anna Catharina, married Peter Summers, one of the five sons of Hermann Sommer of Hoch-Weisel. She later divorced Summers and married again to Nicholas Rausch.

Henry traveled back to Germany in 1762. The reason for his return is unknown, but he visited Freibrug, Frankfort, and Butschbach.

¹ St. Michael's and Zion Church Records, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Church and Town Records, 1708-1985, ancestry.com, 1760, Lord's Supper attendance, img 101 of 189, right page, #6.

Henry returned to PHL and died there in 1773. There are a number of tax records for a Widow Mann in NL-W from 1782-1785, but it's not clear if this was Henry's widow. More research is required on this point.

John Mange

John first married in 1759 to Euphronica Kress, widow of Christian Reinhard. It doesn't appear they had any children together, though she had several children from her previous marriage. Also known as Veronica or Fronica, John's first wife died in 1767, and John remarried later the same year to Anna Catharina Wolf. They had only a few children, and only the youngest, Sarah, survived to adulthood.²

In 1762, John purchased property on the east side of North Second Street in the Northern Liberties and became an innkeeper. After John's death in 1790, the 1793 PHL city directory listed Catherine Mann, widow, tavernkeeper at 219 N. 2nd. St. Knowing that the house numbers have all changed since 1793³, and consulting PHL directories, the later address of this property was 319 N. 2nd St.

In 1765, John purchased a lot in the Fairhill area of Northern Liberties next to one also purchased there at the same time by his brother Ernst. John sold his Fairhill lot two years later, and Ernst sold his Fairhill lot in 1769.

The only other property I know that was associated with John Mange was that purchased by his widow, Catharine. She purchased property in Kensington, which she willed to her daughter, Sarah. Here is a summary of that property:⁴

27 Day Sep 1792 between John Jacobs of NL⁵ yeoman and Anna Maria wife, and Catharine Mingen of same place widow, ground marked in a plan of division, Part No. 20 situate on the west side of Crown St. in Kensington in the NL bordered by Major McPherson and Benjamin Shoemaker and Isaac Franks (Franks had bought from Samuel and John Baker⁶ in May 1786, and Franks sold to John Jacobs in Sept 1786). Catherine bought the property for 15L.

Research is still ongoing about what became of this property.

Finally, it's worth noting that there was probably another person who went by the name John Mann in the NL area. This person used MANN rather than MANGE as a surname, and he was listed in NL-W in 1781 and 1782 tax lists. He was taxed for himself and for Widow Nice's estate. It's possible this person was the son of Henry Mange, born in 1758, or this person could be completely unrelated to my Mange family. It does, however, seem apparent that this was a different person from John Mange who was an innkeeper in the Northern Liberties district.

2 For more details about legacy of John Mange/Mann, see *John Menge/Mange/Mann, German Immigrant to Colonial Philadelphia, Life Story Updated!*, by M.A. Schaefer, April 2017.

3 [Mapping Historic Streets \(PhillyDotMap: Shaping of Philadelphia\)](#)

4 John Jacobs to Catherine Mingen: D-36-346

5 Jacobs is name associated with Mathias Sommer, one of the settlers to Nova Scotia.

6 One of the Martin Kreuder's daughters married Hillary Baker, a mayor of PHL, however this Baker might not be related at all.

I'd like to make note that John was the only Mange brother who apparently remained in PHL during the Revolution and the British occupation of PHL. Brother Henry had died in 1773, and brother Ernst had removed to New Jersey. What must it have been like for John and his family? Here is one vignette:

In August 1781, more than ten thousand American and French soldiers, their horses, supply wagons and artillery pieces traveled down Frankford Pike, over the Cohocksink causeway and along Second Street to Philadelphia. This was part of their 685-mile journey from Newport to Yorktown, where they forced the surrender of General Charles Cornwallis, the British commander.⁷

I can only imagine that John Mange was standing outside his inn on Second Street watching the military march go by that would finally lead to America's independence from Britain.

Ernst Mange

Ernst (my direct ancestor) probably left the PHL area around 1776 when he made an application in Oxford, Sussex, New Jersey to open a tavern there, listing his experience in that occupation in PHL. Indeed, Ernst spent the rest of his life in New Jersey. He wrote his will there in 1804, and died there in 1813.

But before New Jersey, Ernst spent 22 years in PHL. Where was he during those years? After much study, I now believe that Ernst Mange had at least three properties in the Northern Liberties, each discussed in this section.

Property 1: Three Crowns Tavern

Ernst married his first wife, Catharina Klockner Ernst in 1759 in PHL. At that time, she was the widow of a tavernkeeper, Jurg Ernst. It seems likely that our Ernst Mange was able to take over the tavern when he married Jurg Ernst's widow. There are two newspaper clippings, 1764 and 1766⁸, which name Ernst Mange in association with the *Three Crowns* in the Northern Liberties district.

So far, I've not found any deeds associated with this property, but this is still a matter of research.⁹ However, thanks to observations of another researcher,¹⁰ we might deduce the location of the Three Crowns by association with somebody named George Leib.¹¹

⁷ *Northern Liberties: The Story of a Philadelphia River Ward (Brief History)* by Harry Kyriakodis, 2012.

⁸ Special thanks to J.L. McCarty who made this discovery in 2014! She was way ahead of me on this one. Pennsylvania Journal, or, Weekly Advertiser (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) Issue: 1137 Date: Thursday, September 20, 1764 Page: 1

Pennsylvania Gazette (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) Issue: 1968 Date: Thursday, September 11, 1766 Page: 1

⁹ It doesn't appear that Ernst Mange ever sold this property, so I'm wondering if ownership was not passed down to one of the children of Jurg Ernst.

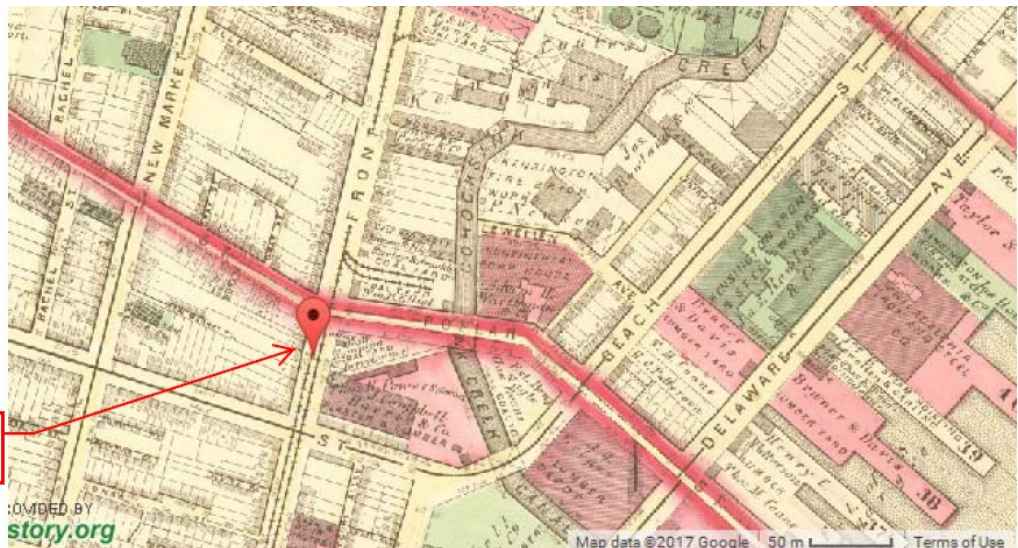
¹⁰ Special thanks to Nancy Ettensperger for sharing her insight and resources. The images on pp. 5-6 come from her work.

¹¹ It's interesting to note that a Widow Leib rented from Ernst Mange in NL-W from 1782-86.

6-17-1789 formerly called Three Crown Tavern, opposite George Leib.

T O B E L E T,
And may be entered on the 1st of July,
(Now occupied by Mr. Henry Pratt)
A Convenient, large, three story
HOUSE, with good Stores and Wharf, between
Race and Vine streets.
Also, Tenements, adjoining each other, in the
Northern-Liberties, west side of Front street, oppo-
site Mr. George Leib's; one of which was formerly
called the Three Crown Tavern; the other has a con-
venient Bake-house, and would suit an industrious per-
son of that occupation. For further particulars apply
to JOHN PETER, senior, in Second, near Vine street.
N. B. Wanted, a Boy of 15 years of age, who is
willing to learn the Biscuit-baking Business; none
need apply without being well recommended for his
honesty and sobriety. June 16. w.f.m.th.

Based on this association to George Leib, the possible location of the Three Crowns might have been on Front Street on the upper edge of the Northern Liberties district:



Possible location of Three Crowns Tavern - current address across the road from 809 North Front Street (formerly 445 North Front where George Leib lived)

Property 2: North Second Street Between Poplar and Brown

In 1763, Ernst Mange, innkeeper, purchased property from William Coats for 80 pounds. Twenty years later, Ernst sold the same property to his brother, John, in 1783. The description of this property was:

“a certain piece of vacant ground situating in the Northern Liberties aforesaid containing in breadth on Second Street continued north and beyond the said city of Philadelphia 20 feet and in length and depth 210 feet to a certain 40 foot alley running from Brown Street to Poplar Lane bounded on the east by Second Street aforesaid, on the south by a lot granted to William Faris, on the west by the same 40-foot alley, and on the north by a lot granted to Jacob Nick”

It is very much worth noting that Jacob Nick and his wife Anna Margaretha were witnesses to the first marriage of Ernst Mange to the widow Catharina Ernst(in) in 1759 (Catharina Glockner had married Jurg Ernst in 1747, and he died in 1759). This 1763 deed was executed during the time Ernst was still married to Catharina (she died in 1766?).

What's interesting is that 2nd Street was the dividing line between Northern Liberties East and West. This property was always taxed with NL-W, while John Mange, who also lived on N. 2nd St. but on the other side of the street, was always taxed in NL-E.

The thing that makes this property distinguishable is that James Nevell (and various spellings), a tavernkeeper, was always a neighbor. Understanding where Nevell's tavern was helps us confirm where Ernst's property was:

James Nevell was a tavern keeper on the west side of 2nd St. in the Northern Liberties. (Philadelphia Directory)

PA Archives 3rd Series, Vol. 14, pp 133, 406, 668, 498 - years 1769, 1774, 1779, 1780, James Nevil, Innholder, Northern Liberties, western part, when he was taxed for a horse, cattle. In 1780 the valuation was 3,500 and the tax 63.0.0.

In 1782 the tax records of Philadelphia for the Northern Liberties, eastern part, shows the valuation to be 400, tax 2.0.4 for James Nevil.

After the death of James Nevil, Dec. 14, 1783, the Philadelphia Directory records in 1791 Hannah Nevill, tavern keeper, 466 North 2nd Street.

Deed Book D-52, p. 369, Phila., PA

James Nevill, 25 Sep 1767

Between Thomas Feltin of the Twp. of Northern Liberties, Phila, Co., PA Bricklayer and Martha his wife and James nevill of the Township of the Northern Liberties, Phila. Co. on 2nd St. between Brown St. to Poplar Lane L30 consideration.

Phila., PA; Book D-52, p. 373

28 Oct 1795 Between Wm. Davis Brown, Phila. and Elizabeth Keen, Spinister, Mary Delaplane of the Northern Liberties, city of Philadelphia, Consideration L 482 for property situated between Brown St. and Poplar Lane on Delaware 2nd St. Being the same messuage(?) late premises John Baker, Esq. High Sheriff of the City and County of Philadelphia in a legal process issued out the court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County seized and sold as late the Estate of James Nevill deceased. And by Deed Poll under the hand of Seal of said Sheriff hearing date the Day next before the date of these Presents, granted under the

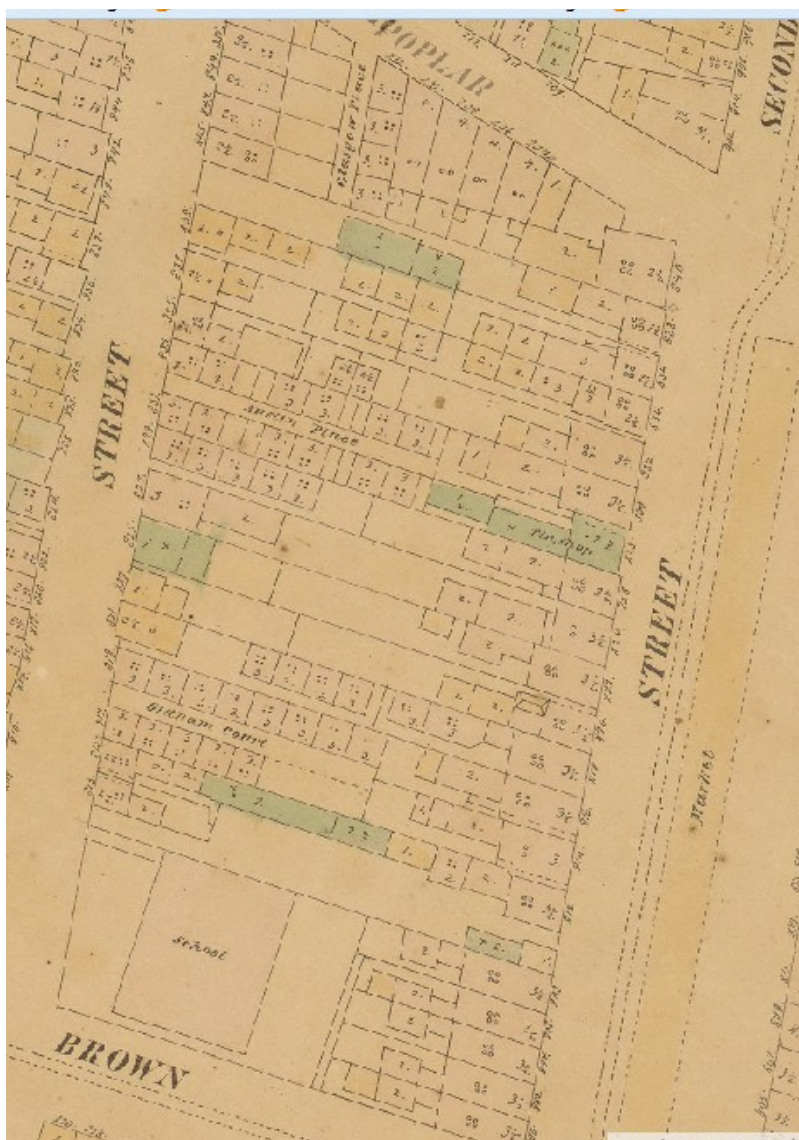
said Wm. Davis Brown in fee subject to an apportioned yearly rent charge from Wm. Brown pays to Wm. Coates, his heirs, and assigns L4 lawful money the first day of Nov. yearly. ¹²

In 1774, Ernst was living at this property, next door to Nevell and he paid tax for a dwelling and a bonded servant. Ernst moved to New Jersey in 1776, but continued to lease this property over the next seven years. The following names appear as lessees of Ernst Mange's estate: George Nanemaker, Nicholas Dessinger,¹³ Philip Shrider, Widow Leib,¹⁴ and John Cook (and later, widow Barbara Cook). A careful study of these names lead me to realize that the Cook's always had one set of neighbors, while all the other names seemed to have a different set of neighbors. This had me thinking that Ernst must have acquired another property we weren't aware of until I finally determined the approximate addresses of these people. Dessinger, Nanemaker, Shrider and Leib had addresses on North 2nd St., while the Cook's address was St. John Street. St. John Street is today called American Street, and in this area of NL, N. American Street. St. John Street ran north-south between 2nd and 3rd Sts. The following map shows the block in question with Poplar on the north, N. 2nd St. on the east, Brown on the south, and St. John on west. In looking at the original property description of Ernst's deed, St. John must have been the name later assigned to "the 40-foot alley" on the west.

12 <http://searches2.rootsweb.com/th/read/NEVILLE/1998-07/0901257010>

13 Dessinger is the surname of the wife of Henry Summers, one of the five sons of Hermann Sommer of Hoch-Weisel. It can further be noted that Henry's brother, Peter Summers, married Henry Mange's daughter, Anna Catharina.

14 We don't know who Widow Leib was, or if related to George Leib on Front Street, though he didn't died until 1798.



1858-1860 Phila Atlas¹⁵
Hexamer & Locher

Now here is my highlight of a lot that might fit Ernst's property description, with one dwelling on the west facing St. John, and two dwellings on the east facing N. 2nd St.

¹⁵ [Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network](#); Map Collection, Free Library of Philadelphia



Twenty years after purchasing it, Ernst sold this property to his brother, John, for 300 pounds. It appears that John then leased the property to Thomas Holloway and Wendell Whiteman. John Mann died in 1790, and his widow died in 1795.

Property 3: 5 Acres in Fairhill

In 1765, Ernst purchased from John Penn about 5 acres in the Northern Liberties township for around 88 pounds. I find the deed difficult to read, but it appears that part of that property bordered that of [Isaac Norris](#), and Thomas Venables, both names that can be associated with a part of Northern Liberties township called Fairhill. It's also curious to note if you follow N. 2nd St. straight north, you come to the Fairhill neighborhood.

Ernst sold this same property to William Will for 50 pounds in 1771 (the deed was recorded 9 Nov 1774). Indeed, William Will was taxed for 5 acres in 1774, and in looking at the surrounding neighbors, the property was almost certainly in the area of Fairhill - interesting!

I don't believe Ernst ever lived on this property, though he was definitely taxed for it in 1769. And why did he then sell it so soon after purchasing it, and for a loss? I think Ernst was making his plans to leave PHL, and perhaps he needed the cash.

Appendix A: Deeds and Tax List Data

Deeds:

Date	Grantor	Grantee	Notes
1 Feb 1762	Henry Dennis, shipwright	Johannes Menger, shopkeeper & wf Veronica	NL, East side of 2 nd St. extending to Cable Lane (now New Market) Deed Ref: H-15-316
1763	William Coats	Ernst Mange	NL, west side of 2 nd St. etc. Deed Ref: D-6-411
1765	John Penn	John Mange, Ernst Mange	NL – Fairhills, approx 5 ac lot by each brother; John sold his 1767, Ernst in 1769. Deed Ref: I-13-171 and 181
1783	Ernest Mange	John Mange	Property purchased by EM in 1763 Deed Ref: D-6-13
1792	John Jacobs	Catharina Mange	Kensington. Deed Ref: D-36-36

Tax Lists:

The following table shows only those of the Mange/Mann family in the Northern Liberties. The colored fill on some entries indicates a Mann who was not known to be part of my family group. For the most part, my Mange family were found in the district of Northern Liberties, and not the township of Northern Liberties. In addition, there has been a great deal of confusion in my mind during this process as to tax division between Northern Liberties – East (NLE) and Northern Liberties – West (NLW). Based on my own analysis, I have determined that North 2nd Street (north of Vine?) up to Germantown Ave was that dividing line.

Tax Year	Place	Main Person	Lease From	Servant	Neighbors
1767	NLE	Henry Mange (stok weaver) p 146			Strum, Clinton, Baker
	NLE	Sarah West p153		Henry Mange	
	NLE	John Mange (innholder) p153			
	NLE	Ernst Mange empty hs & 5 ac WNL, p151		Danich Losh WNL	Henry Potts, <u>Geo Leib</u> , Collier, Levi Budd

Tax Year	Place	Main Person	Lease From	Servant	Neighbors
	NLW	Jacob Nick			James Nevell
1769	NLE	Henry Mange			Conrad Rush, Joseph Ball
	NLE	John Mann			Fred. Wolf, Swertzer, Rice, Mason
	NLE	Ernst Mann (stok weaver) ¹⁶		Michl Hinkle	Croft, Moore, Strum, Cline, Eliz. Norris
	NLE	Sarah West		Ernst Mange!	
1774	NLE	John Mange (innkeeper)			Isaac Coats, Switzer, Brahl, Jones, Anthony
1774	NLW	Ernst Mange		one	James Nevill
1779	NLE	John Mann	Wid. Marshall		Stahl, Anthony, Brahl
	NLE	John Mann (innkeeper)			Stahl, Anthony, Brahl (for Edw. Duffield)
	NLW	George Nanemaker	Ernst Mann		Nevill, Krofts, Kurtz, Binder, Kiter,
	NLW	John Cook	Ernst Mann		Frailey, Shank, Kurtz, Neville
1780	NLE	John Mange (innholder) p. 484 Egle	S. Marshall		Brahl, Smith, g.r. fr. Edw. Duffield, Anthony, I. Coats, Mary Switzer
		John Mann – city tax; val 15K, pd. 45; p. 362 Egle			
	NLW	George Nanemaker	Ernst Mann		James Nevill, innholder, for Henry Gurney's est
	NLW	John Cook	Ernst Mann		
1781	NLW	Nicholas Desinger	Ernst Mann		

16 Still taxed for empty house and also taxed for 5 ac in NLW. Based on newspaper clips, he was still living at Three Crowns?

Tax Year	Place	Main Person	Lease From	Servant	Neighbors
	NLE	John Mange			
	NLW	John Man (laborer)	Wid. Nice		
1782	NLW	Nicholas Desinger	Ernst Mann		
	NLW	John Cook	Ernst Mann		
	NLW	Wid. Leib	Ernst Mann		
	NLE	John Mange (innholder)			Anthony, Brahl, Wid. Switzer, I. Coats
	NLW	John Man	Wid. Nice		
1783	NLE	John Man	Saml Pleasant		
	NLE	John Man			Brahl, Switzer, Anthony, Sticker
	NLW	Phil Shrider, Wid. Leib	Ernst Man		Coats, etc.
		Barbara Cook	Ernst Man		
1785	NLW	John Mann			Diff neighbors!
	NLE	John Mann			Regular neighbors!
	NLW	Phil Shrider, Wid. Leib, p. 79, 237	Ernst Mann		Wid. Nevill; Shank, Ulerich, Marks, Derr, Henry, Dice, Nanemaker
		Barbara Cook, p. 85, 243			
1786	NLE	John Mann (innkeeper)	Sarah Marshall		Brahl, etc.
	NLW	John Mann (farmer)	Dr. Shippen		
	NLW	Philip Shrider, Wid. Leib (p 317)	Ernst Menges		Wid. Neville

Tax Year	Place	Main Person	Lease From	Servant	Neighbors
	NLW	Barbara Cook (p. 323)	Ernst Manges		
1787	NLE	John Man	Sarah Marshall		Hannah Neville
	NLW	Thomas Holloway	John Menge		Fink, Neville, Groff
	NLW	Barbara Cook p. 187	Ernst Menge		
	NLW	John Mann	William Shippen		
1789	NLE	John Mann	Sarah Marshall		
	NLW	John Mann (farmer)	William Shippen		
	NLW	Wendell Whiteman	John Mann		Hanna Neville

My Notes:

Ernest Mann applied for a tavern license in Sussex, New Jersey in 1776. He was recorded there in 1777 as a juror. The first property we know of that he purchased was 1783 from Thomas Hayes (an innkeeper) – this was only a few weeks after he sold property in PHL to his brother John.

I think Ernst must have followed his father-in-law, Georg Sommer, to Sussex, NJ. The property he ended up buying there was next to the Sommer plantation. Ernst still kept one of his PHL properties until after the war.

Sources

[A] 1767 – Penn Libraries (UPenn):

http://dla.library.upenn.edu/dla/medren/pageturn.html?id=MEDREN_1545601&rotation=0&size=2¤tpage=125

(adjust township in Contents drop-down at top)

[B] 1769, 1774, 1779 – PA Archives, Egle, Vol 14:

<https://archive.org/stream/proprietarysupp00pagoog#page/n10/mode/2up>

[C] 1779, 1780, 1781 – PA Archives, Egle, Vol 15

<https://archive.org/stream/proprietarysupp02pagoog#page/n8/mode/2up>

[D] 1781, 1782, 1783 – PA Archives, Egle, Vol 16¹⁷

<https://archive.org/stream/proprietarysupp03pagoog#page/n15/mode/2up>

[E] ancestry.com – [Pennsylvania, Tax and Exoneration, 1768-1801](#)

Tax & Exoneration Lists, 1762–1794. Series No. 4.61; Records of the Office of the Comptroller General, RG-4. Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

My Notes About These Sources:

- Sources A and E show original pages, while Sources B, C, D are transcriptions.
- Source E is indexed (sort of), allowing a search. Ancestry has assigned a tax year to the metadata, but when looking at the original pages, it's not clear at all what year applies and in some cases, pages from within a township appear to be mixed up on the film. This has caused me a good deal of confusion and to start cross-checking original lists with the Egle transcribed lists.
- Among the ancestry lists, there sometimes appear to be TWO lists applying to the same person within the same year. It took me awhile, but I think one is an Assessor List – which really only shows values. Then comes, I think, a Collector's List, which shows again the value (though sometimes the value has changed some), and then the tax paid (supposedly).

¹⁷ It's worth noting that this volume has a confusing typo with regard to Northern Liberties for 1781. The TOC says Northern Liberties – East starts on p. 68, but when you go to that page it is labeled Northern Liberties – West. Northern Liberties – West starts on p. 81, and is labeled that way in both the TOC and the content. As far as I can tell, the tax list that starts on p. 68 does indeed belong to Northern Liberties – East.

- I'm noticing in Commissioner meeting notes, there is reference to “the Duplicates.” Apparently, Duplicates are records kept by the collectors themselves.¹⁸
- Some tax lists had the notation “double” or “dbl” for some but not all individuals, and I can't tell yet what that means.

Other Misc. Sources

A good discussion of occupations of taverns and inns. See <http://www.eisenbrey.org/index.php/emigration/tavern> (fn)

Geohistory Maps

<http://www.philageohistory.org/tiles/viewer/?SelectedLayers=Overlay,ElletGoogle>

[1777 Landowner Map¹⁹](#)

¹⁸ <https://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/collection/data/122584884>

¹⁹ Note that property owners in the district of Northern Liberties are not included in this map, unfortunately.