

**Summers & Mann Families
Sussex County, New Jersey
Land Transactions**

1775-1830

by Mary Ann Schaefer

October 21, 2012

Acknowledgments and Contact

I want to thank my third cousin, J. L. McCarty, whose untiring interest and collaboration in researching this line has helped to make our breakthroughs both possible and fun.

I also extend deep and sincere thanks to Richard (Dick) Stevens of the Sussex County Historical Society whose specialty is deed records. His input to this work has been instrumental to a more informed understanding of the area where these ancestors lived.



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Please contact Mary Ann Schaefer at genealojist@gmail.com with comments or questions about this article. My family tree with source documentation is available on ancestry.com and rootsweb.com. Updated research information can be found at my website www.yesteryours.net/Mannidx.html, which also provides a link to my research blog.

ABSTRACT

by Mary Ann Schaefer

October 21, 2012

The purpose of this article is to account for the Sussex County, New Jersey land transactions related to George Summers and Earnest Man, both early immigrants to America from Germany. These immigrants arrived in Philadelphia around or before 1754, eventually moving into Sussex County, New Jersey in the 1775-1780 time frame. Both men had involvement with the Patriot cause during the Revolution. In the 1830s members of both families left Sussex County and migrated to Michigan, where much of my family history resides.

First I want to speak to the spelling variations of these surnames, as the spellings just shown represent the most recent spellings. For George, it appears that the surname was spelled Sommer and more rarely Somer. However, both the record of George's war service as well as his will later spell his name as Summers, with a change of the first vowel and adding the ending S. For Earnest's family, the earliest known spelling was Menge with variations that included Mange, Mengen, or Mangen. I believe the G ending was soon dropped in America mostly because of German pronunciation where the G sound is hardly heard. So the Menge name became Man, which is the spelling that Earnest Man Sr. used when signing his will, and is the spelling I use when referring to him. However, because the German spelling of word "man" is actually "mann", it appears that the second generation of Menge's in America adopted the surname Mann.

Here is what we know of **George Summers**:

His full name was probably Johann George (Jurg) Summers, born 1721 in what is thought to be Elsas, Germany, died 1785 in Oxford, Sussex, New Jersey. His time of arrival is unknown. He was very involved with the St. James Lutheran Church, also referred to as the Straw Church, which was located in Greenwich, New Jersey. It is thought that he married there to Anna Barbara Longstreet, possibly as early as 1745. He served as an ensign in Washington's Continental Army. His children were: Maria Magdalena (Mann), George, John, Margaretha, Catherine (Banghart), Anna Barbara (Fite), Eva (Knowles), and Margareta or Catherine (Hays).

Next is an abstract of the life of **Earnest Man**:

Probably his birth name was Johann Ernst Menge, his birth date is not certain but probably around 1740, and the place of birth was probably Sodel, Germany. He arrived in Philadelphia in 1754 with at least two of his brothers and one sister. First, he married Catherina Klockner in 1759, and second **Maria Magadalea Summers** in 1766. His (known) children by the first marriage were Anna Veronica and Catharina (Wandling), and children of his second marriage were Peter, Sarah (Oliver), George, Earnest, Mary (Kitchen), John, Anna (Pickering), and David. In 1776, he applied to run a tavern in Oxford township, Sussex, New Jersey. Earnest Man died April, 1813 in Oxford.

It should be noted that some deed records belonging to Earnest Man might actually apply to Earnest's son, Earnest Mann, Jr. born 1773 in Philadelphia, married 1797 to **Catharina Knofts**¹ in Sussex County, NJ. Earnest Jr.'s children were George, Mary (Cline), Anna (Lockwood), Elizabeth, Catherine (Lambertson), Ernest, Rachel (Beers), Sarah (Cole), John, and Rebecca (Lambertson). This Earnest Jr. as well most of his children and their families moved to Macomb and Oakland Counties, Michigan some time in the 1830s. Earnest Jr. died in 1846 in Lockport, NY in an accident on the Erie Canal while traveling from Michigan back to New Jersey.

In gathering together and analyzing the various Sussex County land records that apply to these families, I have come to the following general conclusions.

First, we know that George Summers, the father-in-law of Earnest Man, came to the Sussex County area first. He acquired 414 and possibly another 120 acres on Scott's Mountain around 1775. After George died in 1785, his son John Summers sold the 414 acres in 1798. The remaining 120 acres were devised to three of George's daughters, one of those daughters being Maria Magdalena Summers, wife of Earnest Man. Earnest and Maria sold their interest in the inheritance in 1805.

It seems that most of the subsequent land transactions in Sussex County associated with the Summers family pertain to George Summers' son, John Summers, Sr. and his descendants. It appears that John acquired a fair amount of land between 1810-1822 and then got into a fair amount of legal trouble that went all the way to the NJ Supreme Court. It's still not entirely clear to me who ended up with the land in dispute, but it is clear to me that none of those transactions pertains to my line of interest, that being Earnest Man and Maria Magdalena Summers.

Second, Earnest Man Sr. acquired 210 acres on Scott's Mountain in 1783 that was adjoining or near that of his father-in-law, George Summers. Earnest sold that land some time before 1812. In 1799, he acquired land (thought to be about 97 acres) in Knowlton near the First Presbyterian Church of Oxford just east of Belvidere. Earnest sold that land in 1810. Later that same year, he acquired 66 acres in Knowlton, which subsequently became part of his estate when he died in 1813. Earnest's heirs sold this 66 acres to Benjamin Hunt in 1822.

Earnest Mann Jr. (1773-1846) seems to have acquired some amount of land (I think in the neighborhood of 67 acres) on Scott's Mountain from the Voorhees family in 1805. This land is known to adjoin land owned by George Summers (whether the 414 acres or the 120 acres is not sure). It's not clear to me if this transaction involved EM Sr. or Jr. but I suspect it might be EM Jr. for two reasons. First, I don't think this land is described in any of the deeds involving the estate of EM Sr. who died in 1813. Second, there was a mortgage between EM Jr. and John Voorhees in 1822 (after EM Sr. died), but I can't yet determine if there is a connection between the lands described there and the tract conveyed in 1805. Also, I have not yet been able to account for what happened to this land. If indeed this land belonged to EM Jr., then I believe he disposed of it before his death in 1846 because in his will which was written only seven days before he died, he described his real estate as being in Macomb County, Michigan, with no mention of real estate in New Jersey. I therefore theorize that EM Jr. sold this Scott's Mountain property at some point prior to 1846, and that the record of such probably exists in Warren County.

Summers & Mann - New Jersey Land Transactions

by Mary Ann Schaefer

October 18, 2012

A Note About Locale

The area where my ancestors lived in New Jersey was originally in Sussex County. The township of Oxford was formed from portions of Greenwich township in 1754. Then in 1763, portions of Oxford township were taken to form Knowlton township. All three of these townships (Greenwich, Oxford, and Knowlton) became part of Warren County in 1824, after which the townships of Franklin, Harmony, and Hope were formed from Oxford in 1839, Belvidere in 1845, and White in 1913.

Summers Properties

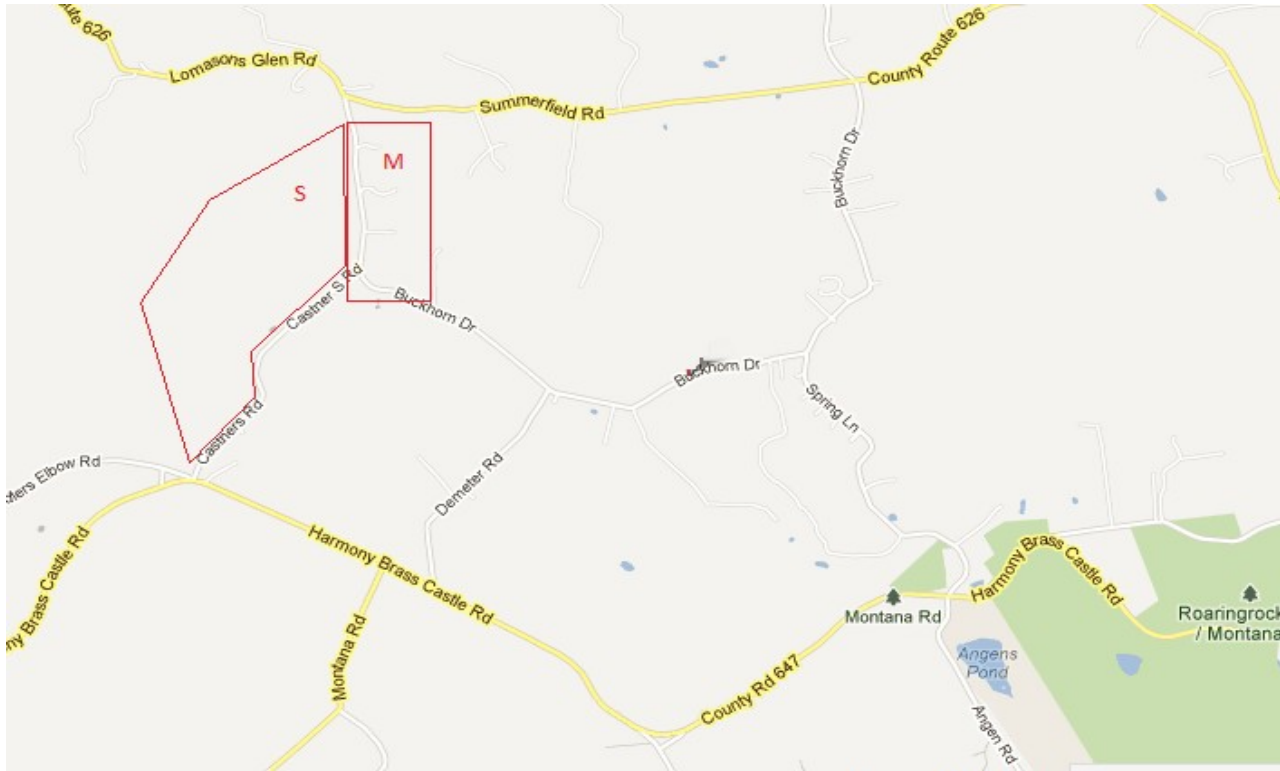
I present first the events and deed records pertaining to the Summers family found in Sussex County, New Jersey because I believe the Summers were the first to arrive in that vicinity. Each event or record is presented in date order starting with the earliest. I will indicate [I] where I believe the land mentioned in the deed is part of an inheritance, a [P] where the land is being purchased, and a [S] where land is being sold.

I want to insert here a side note. There was one church record found at the Zion Lutheran Church in Philadelphia where several other Menge and Sommer records were found. One baptism in 1756 lists "Hans Jurg Sommer and Barbara Sommer(in) of Smithfield" as sponsors. Smithfield was the original name for Oldwick, which became the "New Germantown" around 1754, and the location where the oldest Zion Lutheran Church in NJ was built. So even though this location does not apply to Sussex County, it is worth mentioning that the Sommers might also have been in the Oldwick area (about 30 miles from today's town of Oxford).

[P] 1775

George Summers apparently acquired 414 acres on Scott's Mountain in 1775 from the high sheriff Thomas Potts. We are still trying to locate a record of that transaction.

The following map shows the area where I believe George Summers land was. His land is indicated with the letter S.



8 Aug 1785

This is the death date of George Summers. His will bequeathed the following:

- to his eldest son George, he gave 7 pounds, 15 shillings (I'm not sure why George Jr. didn't inherit the plantation, as George Sr. referred to it, but he did not.
- to his son John & wife Anne, he gave the farm of 414 acres, but his widow Barbara could live there through her widowhood, and on her death the land would cede to John
- Barbara should also get the proceeds of the 120 acres leased by the tenant Peter Snyder; upon Barbara's decease, the tenanted land gets divided between 3 daughters, Mary Menge, Catherine Banghart, and Eva Knowles. [my note – are these 120 acres part of the original 414 or separate?]
- To daughter Catherine wife of Thomas Hays, 7 pounds, 15 shillings
- To daughter Barbara Fite, 15 pounds

George's wife Barbara and son John were executors of the estate.

[S] Deed E3-192 dated 3 July 1798

Scott's Mountain

John Summers to Andrew Crutz, Sr.

414 acres on Scott's Mountain, land inherited from his father George Summers, sold for 800 pounds.

Notes from Dick Stevens:

The first thing to note is that Map 428 adjoins Map 37 on the west. The important deed here is E3-192. This is a deed (not recorded until 1827, and then in Sussex Co., not Warren Co.) for a 414 A. tract in Oxford Twp., from **John Summers to Andrew Crutz Sr.** (Perhaps this is the C... bride's name you are looking for. I am sure it has alternative spellings such as Crutts, Crotts, etc.) dated 7/3/1798. This tract takes up a majority of the scan. It has been subdivided (already by 1820) into many smaller tracts. The only deed I have found from Andrew Crutz is for the south half, to Abraham **Fangboner** 5/1/1802 **K-170**. I have not really tried to locate this tract on the Tax Maps, but it appears to run along Castner Road from White into Harmony Twp.

My Notes:

According to *History of Sussex and Warren Counties, New Jersey* by Snell, John Summers ran the Hoffman Tavern on the road from Hope to Easton. Apparently fox-chases were sponsored by John Summers from his tavern, and the winner would get his entrance fee refunded and a good supper.

This deed recites that George Summers (Sr.) acquired this land on 25 Aug 1775 from Thomas **Potts**, Esquire, high sheriff of the county of Sussex at that time in consideration of money there mentioned (in the original deed?).

See the End Notes of this article for information about the Knofts surname. In this case, the **Crutz** is definitely of interest. Earnest Mann Jr. was already married to Catharina Knofts by 1798, but it makes sense that Catharina's family members might be looking to live in the same area where Earnest and Catharina settled. The idea that there might be some family connection in this case is further supported by the fact that Andrew Crutz later sold this land to Abraham Fangboner, who was the husband of Catherine's sister, Mary Knofts. Abram Fangboner of Oxford died in 1824; Earnest Mann was one of the witnesses of his will.

Finally, I think, though I'm not sure that we can presume that George's wife Barbara died by this date, mostly because George's will said that the lands would not cede to John until her death even though there was provision that she could live elsewhere if she so chose. But as I understand it, even if the widow Barbara moved, the farm would not cede to John until her death. There has been only one undocumented record (on familysearch) indicating that Barbara died in 1816. The truth is that we don't know when or where she died or where either George or Barbara are buried.

2 Jan 1806

George Summers, Jr. of Washington, Bucks, PA granted power of attorney to George Hays of Knowlton to deal with matters pertaining to the legacy left to him by his father George Summers. This is a bit of question to me because I don't see in George Sr.'s will that he left any land to George Jr.

[S] Deed P-547 dated 1807

[Map 348]

Scott's Mountain

From one of George Summers' daughters to John Froom (Peter D. Vroom would become a lawyer, congressman & governor of NJ). Need to follow up. Assume this is part of the additional 120 acres that had been leased to Peter Snyder. This land has not yet been located on the modern map. Also note that up to this point only two of George's three daughters who inherited land disposed of their share of this land. The third daughter hung onto her share? (either Banghart or Knowles).

[S-I] Deed R-383 dated 1 Jun 1807

This must pertain to land inherited from David Vanderen Sr.

Summary Notes:

lands in the twp of Frankford, recorded in book 5 (or 55), page 227

From:

John Summers and wife Anne of Oxford

John Vanderen of Knowlton

Abraham Coursen and Jimima his wife of Wantage

William Van Deren and his wife Hannah of New York city

Aaron Longstreet and Mary (Maria) his wife of Hardiston (in Sussex)

To:

David Vanderen of Frankford (in Sussex)

gives detailed land conveyance history, but eventually it was conveyed to **David Vanderen, Sr. in 1794**, who died intestate, and all these people are considered heirs-at-law, but parties of the first part have agreed to convey solely to David Vanderen. I guess that would mean all the above people are Vanderen relations!

We should note here that we have never been able to account for the family of Anna Barbara Longstreet, the wife of George Summers, Sr. So the Longstreet name here has some significance.

[P] Deed V-489 dated 7 Apr 1810

from Michael Huffman to George Summers, Jr. Need to follow up on details.

[P] Deed A2-362 dated 25 Apr 1814

From John Connelly to John Summers. Need to follow up on details.

[P] Deed H2-224 dated 28 Feb 1815

from John Kenny Jr. to John Summers. Need to follow up on details.

[P] Deed G2-391 dated 6 Jul 1816

from Joseph Hixon to John Summers. Need to follow up on details.

[P] 3 Apr 1818

John Summers and his sons bought 268 acres from the estate of William Loder. Not sure where. See the next deed.

[S] Deed W2-198 dated 27 Mar 1822

Summary Notes:

Indenture between John Summers (wife Anna died in 1821), David Summers and Mary his wife, William Summers and Rachel his wife, John Summers Jr and Jane his wife [son of John and Anna Summers], Jacob Summers and Mary his wife [son of John and Anna Summers], all of Oxford twp.

To William Taylor of Amwell, Hunterdon, NJ, and Jacob Shoemaker of Oxford.

Paid \$15,000

Land description lists names of adjoining property owned by George Hiles, William Mackey, John Linn, John Piles, Henry Butts

Pertains to two certain parcels in Oxford Twp., one containing 240 acres, the second tract on Scott's Mountain containing 28 acres. The land was originally conveyed to the Summers' by George Hiles, Samuel Loder, and John Kinney, Jr., the executors of the estate of **William Loder**, late of Oxford (deed dated 3 Apr 1818).

My Notes:

- Here is a will abstract of Wm. Loder. His executors apparently sold the Loder land to the Summers? Need to find that deed.

LODER, William of Oxford. **1526S** - W. 10 Mar 1817; Filed 14 May 1817. **Wife:** Sarah. **Sons:** James, George, John, Samuel, Asa, Alexander, Levi L., William, Isaac and Benjamin (dec'd). **Daughters:** Rebecah, Sarah PARK, Anna RUNYAN and Caty SMITH. **Others:** Benjamin's two children (not named). **Executors:** Son, Samuel LODER, George HELIS and John KENNEY, Jr. **Witnesses:** Garret BODINE, Jacob SHOEMAKER and Joseph SCOTT.

- Mary Hiles was the wife of Jacob Summers. I haven't established her parents yet, but I might suspect that George Hiles is related to her (probably her father?)

[S] Deed Y2-92 – 30 Apr 1822

Involves the late high sheriff William Darrah and a transaction from John Summers, Sr. (son of George Summers) to his sons John Jr., David, William, and Jacob. This deed is associated with a case heard by the Inferior Court of Common Pleas of Sussex County at Newton, where there was apparently a judgment against John Summers in July 1820 in favor of John Kinney, Jr. and others, and the sheriff subsequently sold the Summers land to Isaac Smith. Then there was a subsequent judgment against John Summers in favor of Daniel Feit for \$600 & \$5 costs, dated 20 Feb 1821. Then there is this deed where John Summers Sr. is selling the (same?) land to his four sons, John Jr., David, William, and Jacob. The sale (auction?) was held at the house of James McMurtrie in Oxford.

This appears to be exceedingly complicated and the case went up to the New Jersey Supreme Court (DEN ex dem. ISAAC SMITH against JOHN YOUNG, Jun.). I am still trying to figure out the bottom line of this case as regards the Summers. Who ended up with the land?

In the mean time, here is a link to the case in *New Jersey Law Reports, Volume 12* by New Jersey Supreme Court:

<http://tinyurl.com/8lrnpdw>

What Became of Summers Family Members

Regarding the sons and grandsons of George Summers:

- George Summers Jr. was last placed in Bucks County, PA and we don't know what became of him
- John Summers Sr. - we don't know what became of him – the latest deed record applying to him is probably 1822. I'd like to note there is some evidence there was a John Summers who was a judge around this same time frame in Sussex/Warren, who may or may not be this same John Summers, and which is the subject of another article I've written.
 - John Summers Jr. moved to Macomb County Michigan some time after 1830 & died there in 1844.
 - George Summers married Sarah Hoagland and we don't know what became of him
 - Jacob Summers got a land patent in Macomb, Michigan in 1835, died there around 1863
 - David Summers married Mary Horn in Sussex in 1807, and we don't know what became of either
 - William Summers married Rachel Hoagland and he died in 1832 in Sussex when he was struck by lightning

Regarding the daughters of George Summers:

- Catherine Summers married Andrew Banghart and died in Knowlton in 1821
- Anna Barbara Summers married Peter Fite and died in Lincoln, NC in 1820
- Eva Summers married Richard Knowles is thought to have died in 1804.
- Margaret Summers married Thomas Hayes and we don't know what became of either
- Maria Magdalena married Earnest Man; we don't know when she died or where either were buried. Of her children, only Earnest Mann Jr. and most of his family moved to Michigan. All other descendants of Earnest Man and Maria Magdalena Summers, to my knowledge, remained in the New Jersey area.

Mann Properties

Next, I present the events and deed records in Sussex County pertaining to the Mann family. They are presented in date order starting with the earliest. I will indicate [I] where I believe the land mentioned in the deed is part of an inheritance, a [P] where the land is being purchased, and a [S] where land is being sold.

It should be noted that the Mann's appear to have had property in two areas – one on Scott's Mountain where they lived, and the other in Knowlton twp, which seems to have been additional property. I have attempted to mark which properties fit into each locations, but some tracts relating to the Mann family have not been exactly located yet.

I would also like to make note there was another Mann family, apparently of German descent also living in the Knowlton area around the same time (1775-1800). The family of Philip Mann is quite well documented in *Descendants and Ancestors of Adam Overpeck and Elizabeth Mann of Sussex & Warren Counties in New Jersey, Bucks, Northampton, Pike, & Bradford Counties in Pennsylvania* by Norris Philip Wood. I have furthermore found a tavern application from Philip for the White Horse Tavern in Oxford Twp from 1777-1779, as well as an indenture between Benjamin Smyth and Philip Mann where Philip is fully released and discharged for the sum of 240 pounds and conveyed 130 acres

of land. The Philip Mann family was also (apparently) Lutheran. During my research, I generally distinguish this family line from my own by virtue of the fact that they and their descendants seem to have settled more in the area of Hardwick township. I make this note because there is still a possibility that these two family lines have some connection, but as of this date, I have not found any.

28 May 1776

Earnest Man of Oxford township made a tavern application “where your petitioner has lately taken the house where William Kerr has for some time past kept a house of entertainment in said township where he has now laid in a stock for the entertainment of man there”.

My Notes:

- It's not clear to me if this involves buying the business and/or property. Are there any deed records that pertain to this application?
- Where was this tavern located?
- Was this tavern the same one or a different one from the one held by Thomas Hayes (maybe Earnest let Thomas run the tavern?)? It should also be noted that John Summers (whether Sr. or Jr. we're not sure) was also associated with the Hoffman Tavern. Are there any old records of the taverns in Oxford township that might help clarify all this?

8 Oct 1781

Anna Mann, the 6th child of Earnest and Mary, was born in NJ and christened at the Straw Church. The previous Mann children were born in Philadelphia, so this is another date establishing the Mann family in Sussex County.

[P] Deed AK-711 dated 13 Apr 1783 [Map 348] Scott's Mountain

Thomas Hayes, tavernkeeper, & Margaret his wife to **Earnest Mange**

210 of the 1050 acres known as Scott's Mountain in Oxford, Sussex, Twp, one side bordered by lands of **George Summers**. There was also a quick claim deed from **James Hays** and his wife to EM. Amount paid not stated

Notes from Dick Stevens:

Deed AK-711, recorded in the Secretary of State's Office in Burlington (now at the New Jersey State Archives, and referred to as West Jersey Deeds, or Colonial Conveyances) is from **Thomas Hayes to Earnest Mange** dated 4/10/1783 for 210 A. The next recorded deed, for most of the tract, is **A2-427**, from **John Kline** to Jonas Gray dated 5/1/1812, which recites that it was conveyed by Earnest Mange & his wife Mary to John Kline (unrecorded & date unknown.)

My Notes:

Both of the deeds mentioned here involve Earnest Menge, the original immigrant of this line to America (as opposed to his son).

The exact location of this land has not yet been placed on the current-day [map](#) shown on page 6, but obviously the location is on Scott's Mountain.

Thomas Hayes was the brother-in-law of Maria (Mary) Summers, Earnest's wife. Here is the marriage record the Zion Lutheran Church in Philadelphia:

2 Nov 1773 marriage of Thomas Hayes (farmer of Sussex Co NJ) and Margaretha Sommer of Northern Liberties. Witnesses: Ernst Mangen and Georg Sommer

The John Kline mentioned here had a wife named Lenah and was from Kingwood Twp, in Hunterdon County, NJ. This person may or many not be related to John Cline (1801-1856), who would marry one of Earnest's granddaughters, Mary Mann, around 1824. Mary Mann was the daughter of Earnest Mann Jr. and his wife Catharina Knofts. Mary was born in 1799 and so was only 13 years old at the time John Kline bought land from Earnest Mange in 1812. (Earnest Sr. died in 1813.) Essentially then, this deed might be between Mary Mann's grandfather and her husband's father.

Finally, and maybe most significantly, this deed contains a long history of who previously owned this land. The names mentioned include Atkinson, Stacy, Pounel, Potts, Wright, Knight, Janney, and Kirkbridge. Of these, the name POTTS is significant in that it mentions the property (or part of it) was conveyed to Rebecca Potts by deed dated 5 Mar 1742 before her marriage to Thomas Potts, who we remember is the sheriff who conveyed land to George Summers. So because both this land and the George Summers land both seem to have origins with Thomas Potts, I think it's reasonable to think the two tracts are within close proximity of each other.

28 Nov 1792

This record does not apply to the Mann's directly, but to Thomas Hayes who was a son-in-law of Earnest Man. Also there once again appears reference to the tavern business.

From *Abstracts of divisions of Warren and Sussex County estates filed at Sussex County courthouse, Newton, New Jersey* was found a record for the estate of **Hugh Hughes** of Oxford Twp, the petitioner is John Fisher in regard to 2 undivided 1/6 parts of 2/3 of land in Oxford Twp, called "Mine-hole tract" and also 1/6 undivided part of 2/3 of another tract called Sawmill Tract in same twp, adjoining William White, et.al. Joseph McKey, another coparcener, objects at first, takes lots 2, 3, 4, 5 of Sawmill tract and lot 6 of Mine-hole tract. Then **Thomas Hayes** is listed as a coparcener, followed by the names John Fisher, William White. Remarks: Innkeeper, Thomas Warner, Oxford Twp.

Here is our understanding of coparcenary. Coparcenary is the concept whereby two or more people inherit a title equally between them as a result of which none can inherit until all but one have renounced. If this definition applies, then Joseph McKey is the one who inherited the land in question, while Thomas Hayes renounced his claim? This is all very interesting, not the least because I have no idea how Thomas Hayes or Joseph McKey could be related to Hugh Hughes. But it's a clue worth keeping in mind since we have no idea who the Hayes family was or what became of them.

[P] 27 May 1799

Knowlton

David **VanDeren** to Earnest Mann

Notes from Dick Stevens:

Now we have moved to the center of White Twp. The tract of interest here is the vaguely rectangular one on the right side marked for W-202. This is a deed from Earnest Mann and his wife Mary to

Nathan Sutton dated 4/5/1810. It recites that Earnest Mann had bought the property on 5/27/1799, perhaps from David VanDeren. This tract has a strategic location. The yellow line crossing the lower part of the tract is Route 519 / South Bridgeville Road. Following it to the left along the yellow/black line, we meet the orange/black line which is Brass Castle Road, leading into Belvidere to the north. On the south side of that intersection is the Oxford First Presbyterian Church, one of the oldest churches in the county. Unfortunately their records are not available at Sussex County Historical Society. I am not aware that they are available anywhere else. Note that during 1815 the Mann tract was owned by Rev. Garner A. Hunt, who was preaching at the Church.

My Notes:

I need to determine how much land was involved in this transaction. Cross-reference the sale to Nathan Sutton in 1810.



***Present Day View of EMSr. Knowlton Property
and Oxford First Presbyterian Church, south corner of intersection
of Brass Castle and 519***

More of My Notes:

While it seems that Earnest Man, Sr. was Lutheran in his religious practices, it can be noted that his son, Earnest Mann, Jr. might have become Presbyterian. In *The History of Sussex and Warren Counties* by Snell, Earnest Mann became a trustee of the Presbyterian Church of Scott's Mountain when it was organized on 29 Nov. 1815 (a date after Earnest Man Sr. died). Is that the same church as this one?

I also found this:

The Scott's Mountain Presbyterian Church was organized at this place in 1815, and a building was erected the same year. The first pastor was the Rev. Garner A. Hunt. It was later known as the Presbyterian Church of Montana. A new building was erected in 1870, but it had no pastor for many years and was finally torn down.

(from <http://history.rays-place.com/nj/war-harmony.htm>)

It should be noted that Rev. Hunt mentioned in the above article is the one mentioned in Dick Steven's notes as later owning Earnest Man's property.

Because of the idea that Earnest Jr. and not Sr. became involved in the Presbyterian Church, I wondered whether this deed applied to Jr. rather than Sr. But the deed does say Earnest and his wife Mary, which means it does apply to Earnest Sr.

The property description here mentions Banghart. Andrew Banghart married a sister of Earnest Sr.'s wife Mary, Catherine Summers. Andrew served in the Revolution and was also an executor of Earnest Man's will. While the wives of Andrew Banghart & Earnest Man Sr. were sisters, I believe these two men were themselves long-time friends.

The VanDeren name also ties to my families. John Summers, the son of George & Barbara Summers, married Anna Van Deren. Anna's father was believed to be David VanDeren who died in Sussex County in 1806 (supposedly) – see the VanDeren entry in the Summers section of this article. Anna also had a brother named David F. VanDeren, who supposedly married Anna Hiles in Sussex County in 1789. (Jacob Summers, also a son of George, also married a Hiles.) So potentially the younger David was old enough to be selling land, but I tend to think it was David Sr. who sold land to Earnest.

[P] Deed N-479 dated 10 Oct 1805

[Map 37]

Scott's Mountain

Abraham Voorhees to Earnest Mann

Notes from Dick Stevens:

Toward the upper left you will find a rectangular tract labeled with Deed N-479. This is the tract in Oxford Twp. conveyed by Abraham Voorhees to Earnest Mann dated 10/1/1805. Today this property is in the southern corner of White Township, near Harmony Twp. & Washington Twp. Buckhorn Drive crosses the SW corner. between its intersections with Castner Road and Montana Road. The northern end of the tract is S of Summerfield Road. I have found no later deed for this tract. Note that it lies on the W edge of my Map 37.

My Notes:

This tract appears on [the map](#) on page 6 and is indicated by the letter M.

I need to follow up on this one. How much land was involved in this one? How much did EM pay for it. And are we talking about EM Sr. or Jr.? This must have showed up in EM's estate at some point (or if it belonged to EM Jr. he sold it off before going to MI?).

[S] Deed O-166 dated 31 Dec 1805

[Map 348]

Scott's Mountain

Earnest Mann & wife Mary to John Froom for \$266 for 1/3 of the inheritance that George Summers left his daughters (Mary Mann, Catherine Banghart, and Eva Knowles). Need to follow up. Assume this is part of the additional 120 acres that had been leased to Peter Snyder.

Notes from Dick Stevens:

On the left is **O-166/P-547**. This is the tract that George Summers devised to his daughters. These deeds convey it to John **Froome** in 1805 and 1807 respectively.

[S] Deed W-202 dated 5 Apr 1810

[Map 395]

Knowlton

from Earnest and Mary Man to **Nathan Sutton**

I have only seen the deed abstract sent from Dick Stevens, need to find deed in SLC.

Details from abstract:

- This property was noted as being in Oxford Twp where I thought other references were in Knowlton twp. Is this significant?
- Earnest sold the land, 97 1/4 acres & 11 perches (?) for \$2600.
- This land was apparently previously sold to David Vanderen by Isaac Smith on 4 May 1797. I would like to make note that Isaac Smith is one of the major litigants in the Summers case that went to the New Jersey Supreme Court in 1822.

[P] Deed W-181 dated 17 Apr 1810

From **Daniel Shannon** to EMSr, 35 acres, need to follow up

[P] Deed X-85A dated 28 Apr 1810

From **Philip Plotts** to EMSr, 31 acres; need to follow up

I have already located a mortgage for \$800 to be paid by Earnest Man and Mary his wife to Philip Plotts for 31 acres in Knowlton. Where was this land in relation to EM's other Knowlton property?

April 1813

The will of Earnest Man (Sr.) of Oxford Twp was proved in probate court. His widow Mary would get use of all personal and real estate during her widowhood, but if she remarried, same to be divided among his 8 children: Catherine Wandling, Sarah Oliver, Mary Kitchen, Anna Fite, and John, Peter, David, and Ernest Jr.

Nov 1814

From Robert H. Kennedy to EM Jr. - see Mann-Voorhees mortgage notes, 9 Feb 1822

[P] Deed G2-346 dated 6 Feb 1816

[not yet located on map]

From Andrew and Mary Seydel to Earnest Mann Jr., their 1/2 x 1/8 share in the estate of EMSr. There is mention in this deed Jacob Hummer adjoining.

My Notes:

By his first marriage, Earnest Man had a daughter Catherine who married Henry Wandling. Catherine died early, probably before 1804, and her two children, Jacob and Mary, were included in Earnest Man's will. Mary Wandling married Andrew Seydel.

There is one source (a DAR application) which says that Peter Mann, son of Earnest Man, Sr., married Mary Hummer.

This is the first deed of record we find after Earnest Sr.'s death pertaining to the transfer of his real estate properties. But what exactly were his real estate holdings at this point in time?

- First there were the 210 acres he bought on Scott's Mountain from Thomas Hayes and adjoining lands of George Summers. That land was apparently sold to John Kline some time before 1812.

- Next came the land EM Sr. bought in Knowlton from VanDeren. That land was sold in 1810 to Nathan Sutton.
- It appears EM Sr. bought an additional 66 acres from Shannon and Plotts in Knowlton in 1810 (after selling the Vanderen tract), and it appears that all subsequent deeds pertaining to the EM Sr. estate relate to that 66 acres.

Deed H2-180 dated 24 Jun 1816

Knowlton

Summary Notes:

From John Mann and Agness his wife, of Kingston, Luzerne, PA to to David Mann of Knowlton for \$250. This land in Knowlton represents John's 1/8th interest in the estate of Earnest Man Sr., deeded to him (EM) by Phillip Plotts and Eunice his wife in 1810.

The land description names adjoining lands: ?? Everts, Dusenbury, Philip Snyder, Jacob Homer (sp?), Andrew **Banghart**, Joseph **Coates**.

Deed K2-286 dated 24 Sep 1816

from James Picker and Ann to Peter Mann

My Notes:

Earnest Man had a daughter named Ann or Anna, who married James Pickering. I've not located much information about him & have seen the spelling of his name as Picker or Pickering.

May 1818

From Hiram Voorhees to EM Jr. - see Mann-Voorhees mortgage notes, 9 Feb 1822

9 Feb 1822

mortgage of Earnest Mann to John Voorhees

- first tract starts from said EM's "other land", 9 48/100ths acre conveyed by Abram Voorhees and wife to Hiram Voorhees and by the executors of Hiram Voorhees to EM
- next tract seems to adjoin with William Kennedy (I wonder if "Kennedy" in this document refers to the Kenney or Kinney family?) and contains 37 acres
- next tract seems to contain 10 (+?) acres and was conveyed from Robert H. Kennedy to EM by deed dated Nov 1814
- last tract also contains 9 48/100ths acre conveyed by Hiram Voorhees to EM by deed dated 12 May 1818 (? - also seems to include some reference to Trenton)

EM to pay John Voorhees \$443 to be paid \$222 on 1 Apr 1823 with interest, and \$221 on 1 Apr 1824
J. Kinney Jr. was a witness.

My Notes:

- First, this mortgage rather throws me. Is EM Jr. adding to the land his father bought from Abram Voorhees in 1805? Is that the "other land" referred to as already belonging to EM? And how much land? I calculate approximately 67 acres?

- Second, it almost seems that much of land described was already conveyed to EM – was it conveyed without being payed for and now EM (Jr.) is paying for it?
- In the scan I have of this mortgage, the very next mortgage that follows this one is Abraham Finkboner to John Kinney, Jr. - interesting!

22 Mar 1822

Knowlton

This deed is from the heirs of Earnest Man's estate to **Benjamin Hunt**. One might wonder if it was not sold until this time because Mary Summers Man either died or remarried around this time (we don't yet know when she died or where either she or Earnest are buried).

My Notes:

This is a deed I scanned from SLC, which lists the following details:

From:

- Earnest Mann (grantee of Mary Vandlin as well as heir) & Catherine his wife
- Peter Mann (grantee of Anna Mann as well as heir) & Mary his wife
- David Mann (grantor to David Ribble but now grantee of John Mann) & Sarah his wife
- Joseph Kitchen & Mary his wife

To: Benjamin Hunt

66 acres sold for: \$1409.50

Comprises 11/16ths of the whole (?)

Persons mentioned in land description: Jacob Hummer and Frederick Searle

This is very close but seemingly not the same as a deed in Mr. Stevens database: N2-214, dated 23 Jan 1819 for an amount of \$1530, although nearly all other details match.

It should be noted that the 66 acres here probably represents the 35 acres purchased from Shannon and 31 acres purchased from Plotts in Knowlton Twp.

Feb. 1826

Application was made by Daniel Oliver to the Warren Orphan's court, which lists the heirs of Earnest Man Sr.'s Knowlton lands as Earnest Man, John Man, Mary Kitchen, Ann Pickering, wife of James Pickering, Peter Man, David Man, the heirs at law of the late Sarah Man Oliver, and the heirs at law of the late Catherine Man Wandling.

Heirs-at-law of Sarah Man Oliver listed as:

- Daniel Oliver – already owns the shares of John Oliver and Mary Cleaver
- Mary Cleaver, wife of Nathaniel Cleaver
- Peter Oliver – minor under 20
- John Oliver

Heirs-at-law of Catherine Menge Wandling listed as Jacob Wandling and Mary Sidel, wife of Andrew Sidel. Disinterested persons listed as James Ramsey, Jacob Summer, and James Hiles

Land description notes the following names as boundaries: Peter Wolf and Joseph Coates.

It's not clear to me what this is. Maybe Daniel Oliver was trying to get control of the interest held by

his minor son, Peter? It should be noted that this document recites the land supposedly being divided eight ways was a total of 66 acres, which means each would get 8.25 acres. Just as commentary I think maybe this is why Earnest Jr. decided to sell all and move to Michigan – the land was running out in New Jersey!

End Notes

- i The Knofts surname is in question because it cannot be found either before or after the marriage of three sisters in the 1790s, specifically Mary Knofts to Abraham **Fangboner** on 25 Oct 1796, Dernethea Knofts to David **Cutcheler** on 6 Nov 1796, and Catharina Knofts to Earnest **Mann** Jr. on 1 Mar 1797, all married by John Cline, the justice of the peace in Sussex County, NJ, and interestingly all of whom would end up in Michigan. In the Bible found for Ernest Mann, Jr., his wife's surname contains a gigantic ink blot (!!!) so that the only part of her name that can be deciphered is "Catherine Cxxxts". Taking the size of the ink blot into consideration, I believe the hidden part of the name is somewhat short. Some people think the C might represent Catherine's middle name. I tend to think, however, that the surname might start with C rather than K, and so I find myself looking for names in the Oxford area that start with C and end with TS. Variations of Cruts and Coats are the leading contenders.

One must still consider the Knofts name. Research by my cousin J. L. McCarty found Knop, Knopeck, Knopf, Knoph, Knopman, Knopr, Knopp, Knops, Knopt, Kanoff, Knof, Kanoff and even Caganovsky listed as possible alternatives to the same name! How was it pronounced in the German? Kah – nah – fts. It means button, if the dictionary is correct. This leads to the consideration of another relation who was also married in the same time and place: Easter NOFE married John **NETCHEY**/Nitchie on 30 Oct 1796 in Sussex Co., NJ and are on the same list as the other girls. If she is related to the other women, it's curious why the spelling of her name would be recorded differently (it might depend on how each person pronounced it?)

This particular Knofts question probably represents the Number One Brick Wall currently existing in this line of research. Any and all suggestions will be considered in the ongoing effort to crack this puzzle.