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John Shneido

by Thomas N. Clark,

Snidow Assn. Historian (Snidow Newsletter Compiler 1984 - 1990)

For some time now, I have been concerned about the generally-accepted lineage of our ancestor, **John Shneido**, who came from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania to Botetourt County, Virginia where his estate was settled in September 5, 1772. Of course, his wife **Elizabeth**, and her eight children continued the journey, settling eventually in what is now Pembroke, Giles County, Virginia. This has been a topic of much discussion, much of which is based upon conjecture. Recent facts have come to light which absolutely prove that our **John Snido (Snidow)** was not a son of **Christian Schneider** of Earl Township, Lancaster County, PA.

A History of Middle New River Settlement and Contiguous Territory by David E. Johnston, page 453 states: "This family is of German origin and the first of the family to come to America was Christian Snyder, who landed at Philadelphia in 1727." We do not know where this bit of information came from; it could not have come from any of the children of John & Elizabeth since the last Snidow child to die was Jacob in July of 1847. Judge Johnston's book was written in 1905 (58 years after Jacob's death). All subsequent histories have copied this account; however, **there is not one document which supports this theory.**

Probably the most scholarly research of the Family was done by Dr. John Alexander Kelly (1889-1959) who taught German at Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania for over thirty-five years. He did extensive research in Pennsylvania and Germany for over thirty years, and his manuscripts were published by his cousin, Roberta Matilda Copenhaver in 1994. Dr. Kelly never found any documentation for the father of **John Shneido** of Warwick Twp., PA and Botetourt Co., VA.

We have certain documented facts concerning **John & Elizabeth Shneido**. Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Court Records confirm that **John Shneido** was in Warwick Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania from 1749 to 1756:

- Lancaster County Court Papers found in the courthouse basement by Historian John A. Kelly and recorded in Collection of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, Vol. 107, 1735-52, No. 154: **1749**: "...to Sheriff of Lancaster ...We command that you take **John Shneido** late of your County Yoeman otherwise called **John Shnido** of Warwick, in the County of LancasterIf he be found in your Bailiwick and him safely keep So that you may have his Body before our justices at Lancasterthe **Seventh Day of August** next to answer..."
- "May 13, 1752 ...Jacob Moore,....in the Province of West Jersey, . - - to **John Schnido**, of the County of Lancaster....for 260 pounds....all that certain tract of Land situate in Warwick Townshipadjoining Peter Delan's and Micahel Burmeier's141 acres....together with houses, outhouses, etc..."
- The records of the Rev. John Waldschmidt (1752-1738), PA Archives, Series 6, Vol. 6, page 193 show: "**Catharina Schneido**, daughter of **Johannes** and wife **Maria Elizabeth**, born October 28,1752, bapt. November 26,1752..."
- Lancaster County, PA Deed Book FF, pages 264-266 recorded on 10 July 1756"**John Schnido** of the County of Lancasterand **Mary Elizabeth** his wife for and in consideration of the Sum of Two hundred and Sixty Pounds....paid by Abraham Hockman....sold land containing One hundred and forty one acres..."

The **Christian Schneider**, who is most commonly referred to as the father of **John Snidow** of Virginia and arrived in Philadelphia on the ship "Allen" in 1729, left a will in Earl Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania on June 16, 1789; naming: "my son **Jacob**, five pounds and five shillings and no more in full of all demands." This will was written 18 years after the death of **John Snidow** of Virginia. His children listed in his will were:

- **Margaretha** bn. Feb 2,1729, bap. June 8, 1735
- **Elizabeth** bn. July 15, 1732, bap. June 8, 1735
- **Johan Jacob** bn. March 25,1735, bap. June 8
- **Joh. Christian** bn. March 8, 1738, bap. March 8, 1738
- **Joh. Philip** bn. Feb 15,1741, bap. April 17, 1741
- **Michael** bn. 1745

The German tradition of giving sons the Saint's name "John" at their baptism is evident here; variations are Johannes, Johann, Johan, Joh. & John always precede the "Given Name".

The **Johan Jacob**, born March 25, 1735 here could not possibly be the **John Shneido** in Warwick Township Court Summons of May 1, 1749 since he would have been only 14 years old. Also, this John Jacob Schneider would have been only 17 years old when daughter **Catharina Schneido** was born on October 28, 1752.

Perhaps the most convincing arguments which finally makes this position of this being our ancestor impossible is the following:

- **Johan Jacob Schneider** (born March 25, 1735 - son of Christian & Susannah) married Anna Maria Kitzmiller and had seven children: Christian (b. 1757), Jacob II (b. 1758), Elizabeth, Catherine (1764), Baltzer (1765), John and Susanna.
- The Lancaster County Militia list of the 10th Brigade 1777-78 shows **Jacob Schneider**, son of Christian, at 42 years old. (our John Jacob would have been dead for 8 years.) He is shown in the DAR Patriot Index - Centennial Edition, Part III, Page 2737 under **SNYDER, SCHNEIDER, SCHNEDER, SHNYDER, SNIDER**: Jacob: b 3-8-1735 PA d 7-10-1829 PA m Anna Maria ---Pvt. PA. These descriptions exactly match Jacob Schneider, son of Christian Schneider of Earl Twp.
- Correspondence between our Jane Snidow-Lloyd and **Harold E. Marks** of PA., a Schneider descendant, confirms his descent from **Baltzer Schneider**, son of **Johan Jacob & Anna Maria (Kitzmiller) Schneider**.

We are continuing to research for the parents of our John Snidow and for the documents which will prove "beyond the shadow of a doubt" the proper lineage.

*~Thomas N. Clark
September 25, 2000*

THE OLD STONE HOUSE

by Mary French Boswell

Of interest to the Snidow family descendants of **William Turner Snidow and his wife Nancy Burke Williams** is the OLD STONE HOUSE in Rowan County, North Carolina. It was their ancestor, Michael Braun, who, in 1766 built it in the piedmont area.

In the old country the Braun family lived originally in the Palatinate of Germany. Johann Jakob Braun, a blacksmith and farrier, and his wife Agnes lived in the town of Niedermohr of the Pfalz region in Germany. Their son Stephen was born February 2, 1703.

In 1738 Stephen Braun received an emigration permit for himself and his family to come to America, '--- to the Carolinas'. Sailing on the ship "Glasgow" the family arrived in Philadelphia on the 9th September 1738. On arriving Stephen took the oath of loyalty to the king of England. One of his children, Michael, was a lad of 6 years of age at the time of their arrival in America. The family settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and remained there until about 1752.

On or before 1758 Stephen Braun and his family moved from Pennsylvania to the piedmont area of North Carolina. In 1759 Stephen, along with two sons, Jacob and Michael, obtained land from Lord Granville in Rowan County. There was a large colony of Germans in that area. Stephen Braun died in 1763 in Rowan County in his 60th year.

Michael Braun's name appears for the first time officially in Rowan County in 1758 as a member of a jury. On 18th of July 1760 Michael Braun purchased 274 acres of land. It was on this 274 acre tract that Michael built his home which today is known as the OLD STONE HOUSE. It's known the house was completed about 1766. Over the main door near the second floor he carved an inscription on a smooth slab of granite that is embedded in the two-foot-thick granite wall -----

MICHAEL BRAUN

MICHREDA BRAUN

1766

An extensive restoration of the OLD STONE HOUSE, completed in 1966, brought the home back to its 1766 appearance. A court record stated the house contained 3,500 tons of granite. The walls, started many feet in the ground, were two-foot thick, going to the top of the gables. In the gables were port holes (for defense against Indians). The land lay near the Indian trail that led to Trading Ford on the Yadkin River. (The same year that Michael Braun bought the land, it is known that the Cherokees attacked a near-by fort.)

For the restoration, lumber for flooring and woodwork came from a 175 year old building in Rowan County. All heavy woodwork was replaced to the morticed and peg treatment. Only 18th century nails were used, most of which were recovered from the attic. The lower floor contained 5 rooms, furnished with antiques of the period. The upper floor was an open space. Michael opened his home to travelers as a tavern. As was the custom, the guests slept on the upper floor on mattresses filled with straw or corn husks.

The Snidow family members are descended from Michael Braun and his wife Margaretha Braun through their daughter Christina, who married John Eagle about 1778-1780, in Rowan County, North Carolina. John Eagle served in the army during the American Revolution. He was the son of Jacob Eagle (Eakle), who was listed during the Revolution as Captain Jacob Eagles. Jacob Eagles had migrated from Pennsylvania to North Carolina and had taken up land on the north side of the Yadkin River. This land today is outside the town of Clemmons, near Winston-Salem. Of this land Jacob Eagle deeded 180 acres to his son John Eagle.

Around 1800 Christina and John Eckhols (his name was spelled Eagle in North Carolina, the Virginia spelling was Eckhols or Echols) moved from North Carolina to Virginia. They settled on Sinking Creek in what is today Giles County. John and Christina had eight children, among them a daughter Anna Eckhols who was born ca 1800. Anna Eckhols married (October 26., 1818) James Frederick Williams in Giles County.

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James Frederick Williams and Anna Eckhols Williams had a large family; among their children was a daughter **Nancy Burke Williams**. William Turner Snidow married (March 1, 1838) Nancy Burke Williams. They raised their family on a large farm on Big Stony Creek, near the mouth where the creek flows into New River, in Giles County.

The Snidow descendants can be proud of their heritage. The OLD STONE HOUSE is thought to be the oldest standing building in piedmont North Carolina; it is designated a North Carolina Historic Landmark. In 1971 it was placed on the list of the National Register of Historic Places.

(Mary French Boswell is the past Historian of the Snidow Association)

Col. Christian Snidow's Tombstone

(From the Spring, 1981 *Snidow Newsletter*, page 5)

This Monument is erected in Memory of
Col. Christian Snidow
Who departed this life September 17, 1836
Age 76 Years, 6 Months & 2 Days

He was an officer of the American Revolution & was distinguished through a long life for virtue & integrity & that nobility of soul which elevates man among his fellows as an officer, legislator & magistrate. He acted his part with zeal & fidelity. He was not a man of profession but no one was more true to his friends, none more devoted and kind in every domestic relation. His mansion was the seat of a generous hospitality & was adorned by the peculiar attraction of his wit, humour & kindness. He died lamented and beloved by all who knew him & left behind a name without reproach which he had earned by a life of stainless integrity.

Col. Christian Snidow and his wife Mary Burk are both buried in Horseshoe Cemetery in Pembroke, VA.

Snidows In The Civil War

(From the Autumn, 1984 *Snidow Newsletter*, Vol. 7-2)

Descendants of John Jacob and Elizabeth (Helm) Snidow have served their country in every war in which this country has waged any struggle for freedom.

Beginning with their sons: Philip, Christian, Jacob and Theophilus whose services to the cause of the American Revolution are well documented in the annals of history and repeatedly reported in the *Snidow Newsletter*.

In the War of 1812, the second struggle for independence from the British, Christian again served his country as Lieutenant Colonel in command of the 86th Regiment of the Virginia Militia. (See *Snidow Newsletter* Volume 6-1, Spring 1983).

In the struggle for the cause of the Confederacy in the Civil War (1861-1865), the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of three of our four Revolutionary Soldiers (Theophilus had no progeny) were called upon to support the cause. Following is a **partial** listing (by family) of those who served:

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DESCENDANTS OF PHILIP (1756-1794)

Grandsons:

Christian W. Snidow, son of Christian & Sarah (Turner) Snidow.
Co. B, 86th Militia. He was taken prisoner at Winchester, Va, 19 Sep 1864.
Ref: Va. Archives, Vol. 20 p. 144.

John Madison Snidow, son of George & Elizabeth (Surface) Snidow.
Enlisted 6 May 1864. Sta. Drury's Bluff, Ft. Gilmore.
Ref: *Givens-Hall History*, Givens, p. 595.

Philip N. Snidow, son of Christian and Sarah (Turner) Snidow.
Sergeant, Co. B, 86th Va*. Militia. Killed at New Hope, Va. 5 Jun 1864.
Ref: Va. Archives, Vol.1, p. 353.

Great Grandsons:

Christian N. Snidow, son of Christian Lewis & Barbara (Snidow) Snidow.
Co. F, 11th Batt'n, Va. Reserves.
Ref: Va. Archives, Vol. 1, P. 538

James E. Williams, son of Isaac F. & Sarah Jane (Snidow) Williams.
Co. H, 36th Va. Infantry, McComas' Battery.
Ref: *History of Middle New River Settlements* (Johnston), p. 473.

DESCENDANTS OF CHRISTIAN (1760-1836)

Grandsons:

Allen Lewis Harvey, son of James and Nancy (Snidow) Harvey.
Vawter's Co., Va. Militia.
Ref: *History of Monroe Co.*, (Morton), p. 437.

James Austin Harvey, son of James and Nancy (Snidow) Harvey.
Lieutenant, Vawter's Co., Va. Militia.
Ref: *History of Monroe Co.*, (Morton) p. 437.

John Snidow Harvey, son of James and Nancy (Snidow) Harvey.
Monroe Sharpshooters.
Ref: *History of Monroe County*, (Morton) p. 437.

Andrew Jackson Peck, son of Benj. & Rebecca (Snidow) Peck.
Thurmond's Rang. Va. Militia
Ref: *History of Monroe County* (Morton), p. 451.

Benjamin F. Peck, son of Benjamin & Rebecca (Snidow) Peck.
Thurmond's Rang., Virginia Militia
Ref: *History of Monroe Co.*, (Morton) p. 451.

Erastus W. Peck, son of John and Elizabeth (Snidow) Peck.
Surgeon, Fleshman's Co., Virginia Militia
Ref: *History of Monroe Co.*, (Morton) p. 451.

William H. Peck, son of John and Elizabeth (Snidow) Peck.
Sergeant, Fleshman's Co., Virginia Militia.
Ref: *History of Monroe Co.*, (Morton) p. 451.

David J. L. Snidow, son of John and Rachel (Chapman) Snidow.
French's Battery, Virginia Artillery.
Ref: Virginia Archives, Vol. 18, p. 538.

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James Harvey Snidow, son of John and Rachel (Chapman) Snidow.
Sergeant, Co. F, 86th Militia, Breckenridge Div. Fought at the Battle of New Market.
Ref: Virginia Archives, Vol. 20, p. 155.

James P. Snidow, son of William H. & Adaline (Chapman) Snidow.
2nd Lt., Co. F, 24th Reg. Kemper's Brigade. Prisoner at Gettysburg. Lost his leg.
Ref: Virginia Archives, Vol. 3, p. 79.

John Chapman Snidow, son of William H. & Adaline (Chapman) Snidow.
Major, Giles Co. Militia.
Ref: *Givens-Hall History*, Givens, p. 605.

Great Grandsons:

B. Wallace Peck, son of Benjamin B. & Mary (Peck) Peck.
Died at the Battle of Gettysburg.
Ref: *Givens-Hall History*, (Givens), p. 17.

Erastus H. Peck, son of Benjamin B. & Mary (Peck) Peck.
Lieutenant Lowry's Battery
Ref: *History of Monroe Co.*, (Morton) p. 451

John D. Snidow, son of James Harvey & Elvira (Lucas) Snidow.
McComas' Battery, Stark's Battalion, Wise's Brigade. Surrendered at Appomattox.
Ref: Virginia Archives, Vol. 18, p. 538.

William H. Snidow, Son of Christian L. & Barbara (Snidow) Snidow.
Co. D, 7th Regiment.
Ref: Virginia Archives, Vol. 1, p. 353.

Charles C. Tiffany, son of John & Elizabeth (Snidow) Tiffany.
Monroe Guards, Wounded at the 1st Battle of Manassas.
Ref: *History of Monroe County* (Morton) p. 457.

Hugh Snidow Tiffany, son of John & Elizabeth (Snidow) Tiffany.
Capt. Monroe Guards. Killed at the 1st Battle of Manassas.
Ref: *History of Monroe County* (Morton) p. 457.

Charles Vawter, son of John H. and Clara Snidow (Peck) Vawter.
Capt. Monroe Guards.
Ref: *History of Monroe Co.*, (Morton), p. 458.

Louis Addison Vawter, son of John H. & Clara Snidow (Peck) Vawter.
Capt. 13th Battalion, taken prisoner at Battle of Winchester 9/19/1864 and held at Ft. Delaware.
Ref: *The Vawter Family in America* (Bicknell), p. 384.

James Polk Peck, son of John Snidow and Mary Burk (Snidow) Peck.
Lieutenant in Company B., 23rd Battalion, Virginia Volunteers. Killed at the Battle of Gaines Mill on the Chickahominy June 3, 1864. (A letter written by James to his uncle and aunt on September 18, 1863 was published in the 1984 *Snidow Newsletter*, Vol. 7-2, p.5. An article, which appeared in the Bluefield Telegraph, concerning the letter also appeared in that issue of *The Snidow Newsletter*. Both were taken from the papers of John Jacob Snidow which were on loan to the Association.)

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Snidow soldiers not identified to a family:

A. D. Snidow, Co. G, 4th Virginia Infantry.

Ref: Microfilm - VPI, Blacksburg, VA

B. N. Snidow, Corporal, Co. H, 36th Regiment; Killed at Piedmont.

Ref: Virginia Archives, Vol. 4, pp. 163, 169.

Ballard J. Snidow, Sergeant, Co. C, 86th Militia.

Ref: Virginia Archives, Vol. 20, p. 145.

C. D. Snidow, Co. G, 4th Regiment.

Ref: Virginia Archives, Vol. 1, p. 145.

C. H. Snidow, Co. F, 11th Battalion, Virginia Reserves.

Ref: Microfilm - VPI, Blacksburg, VA.

Jacob Snidow, Co. F, 24th Battalion, Va.

Ref: ?

P. M. Snidow, Co. H, 36th Regiment.

Ref: Virginia Archives, Vol. 4, p. 166.

(Please check back for the addition of Jacob's descendants from Missouri who served in the Civil War.)