

West Conestoga (Old Conestoga) Amish Mennonite family cemeteries

1. Michael and Anna Garber, 1734 immigrants, ship Hope

162 acres- Land warrant June 10, 1741, patent July 14, 1741

100 acres- Land warrant May 30, 1746, patent June 4, 1746

A mill was built along the west side of the Conestoga River in 1749 by Michael Garber (c1707-1790). Their son John Garber operated the grist and saw mill until it was sold in 1770. Christian Binkley, a Mennonite, took over the mill, built a stone arch bridge and a post office was established named Binkley's Bridge. It became a paper mill in 1866. The mill no longer stands but Manheim Township maintains a passive recreation park called Perelman Park at Binkley's Mill. Michael was a spokesman and represented the Amish Mennonites in 1775 before the Lancaster County Committee of the American Revolution.

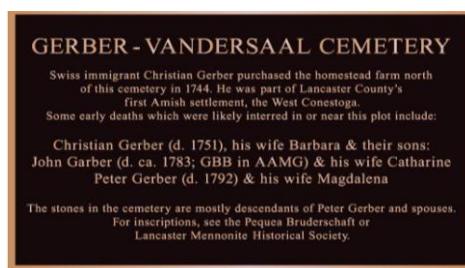


Perelman Park, 1996 Landis Valley Road, Lancaster, PA 17601 (not a cemetery)

2. Christian and Barbara Garber, immigration date not determined

150 Acres- Land patent June 10, 1736 to Christophe Franciscus; Christian Garber apparently purchased it at a time thereafter. "By virtue of divers means, grants and conveyance dying seized thereof the same with the rest of his real estate was ordered to be held by the said John Garber..." (Deed TT-21) Land was also purchased from Leonard Bender in 1744. Christian's land titles were not valid due to him being "an alien" outside of the British "Majesty." Upon his death in 1751, the court ordered the eldest son John Garber (1721-1783) to be heir at law. John and his brother Peter Garber (-1792) needed to reapply for a warrant.

235 acres- New warrant issued September 26, 1761 to John Garber: 119 acres and Peter Garber: 126 acres; patent for both October 31, 1765



Gerber-Vandersaal Cemetery, 94 Snake Hill Road, Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505 (not near Bird-in-Hand) Snake Hill Road is north of Route 23, east of the Conestoga River. Turn west onto farm lane at the Amish schoolhouse along Snake Hill Road.

3. Hans and Catharina (Erb) Schantz/Johns, 1737 immigrants, ship Charming Nancy

232 acres- Land warrant June 10, 1741, patent May 19, 1742; Hans Schantz (c1720-1799)



Johns Cemetery, 200-244 W. Center Square Road, Leola, PA 17540

4. Hans and Hans Garber Jr, 1737 immigrants, ship Charming Nancy

Hans Garber, the father, died in 1739. Estate administrators were Jacob Beiler and Christian Burki
256 acres- Land warrant September 8, 1742, patent April 12, 1745 to John Garber (1710-1767)



Gerber Cemetery, 112 N. Maple Ave, Leola, PA 17540 (behind farmhouse)

5. Jacob Kurtz, 1742 immigrant, ship Francis and Elizabeth

175 acres- Purchased land warrant from Jacob Huber on May 13, 1746, patent May 25, 1748; Jacob Kurtz died 1792



Kurtz Cemetery, 2792-2864 Butter Road, Lititz, PA 17543

6. Christian Rupp and John Rupp, 1750 immigrants, ship Brotherhood

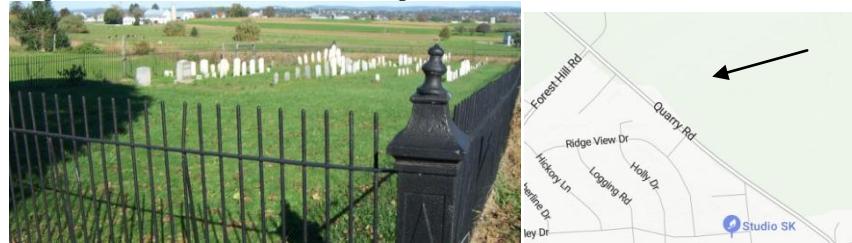
298 acres- Christian and John Rupp, brothers, purchased from Nicholas and Eve Harman on April 16, 1754
Christian Rupp (1732-1810) was an Amish preacher in West Conestoga and was a spokesman for the Amish Mennonites in 1775 before the Lancaster County Committee of the American Revolution.



Rupp Cemetery, 317-329 N. Maple Ave, Leola, PA 17540 (in open field but accessible by field lane)

7. Johannes Kurtz (1751-1810), son of Berks County deacon Johannes and Elizabeth (Reichenbach)

Kurtz, and his wife Catherine Kurtz, daughter of immigrant Jacob Kurtz, West Conestoga
108 acres of land was purchased from David Baer on April 3, 1776



Kurtz-Zook-Baer Cemetery, 99 Quarry Road, Leola, PA 17540 (lane entrance; cemetery up the hill)