

Unravel the Past LLC

Michael R. Gallagher, Genealogist

DATE: 18 November 2022

REPORT TO: David Vardiman

SUBJECT: Johannes Vardiman & descendants

BACKGROUND: Client provided emails & files regarding previous research by a professional genealogist

OBJECTIVE: Attempt to locate 1)earlier documents than 1714 will of Johan Vardiman 2)the descendants of his children Johannes & Christopher

ASSIGNMENT: Research up to \$1000 in time & expenses (\$32/hour) (online repositories, Delaware Public Archives, & Delaware Historical Society)

REPOSITORY: Delaware Public Archives (DPA), Delaware Historical Society (DHS), Delaware Genealogical Society (DGS) website & its members' area

LIMITATIONS: Up to \$1000 (\$32/hour), phase 1

Summary of Findings

1. Online research yielded few results. However, the 1714 will of Johannes Vardaman (New Castle County), 1799 one of a Christopher Verdaman (Sussex County), & 1733 will of John Wardeman (New Castle County) were among the positive findings.
2. As stated in the Genealogist's 6 September 2022 email, he agrees with the Client that the immigrant Johannes Vardamen may have been Germanic in origin¹. Per the Client's research, most Swedes in Delaware settled in northern New Castle County. Further, his ancestors settled in Appoquinimink Hundred, which is/was in southern New Castle County, and they do not appear in early Swedish or Swedish-American records in Delaware. Lastly, there is linguistic evidence (ie. Johannes, -man/) of Germanic naming, and many Germanic Europeans immigrated to America, most notably to Philadelphia between 1682 & 1776. There were other early settlements elsewhere in America, but the Client's ancestors were firmly in the Delaware Valley.
3. Passenger lists of non-British people entering Pennsylvania were either not required to be kept or did not survive. Surviving required records of "foreigners" arrivals begin in 1727 and were indexed in Volume III of *Pennsylvania German Pioneers* by Strassburger & Hincke (1934). British

¹ Email from Michael R. Gallagher to Client, 6 September 2022 10:55AM EDT.

subjects entering Pennsylvania were migrating internally within the British Empire and thus were not naturalized or routinely tracked/recorded².

4. The Delaware Genealogical Society (DGS) Journal full name index yielded a reference to a 1751 deed in will book G p.487 (NCCo) which conveyed property from William Vardimen to Elenor Vardiman. These references would need further information to locate, as the deed book indices were organized alphabetically.
5. The DHS catalog contained a book “Act of Union and Great Law of Pennsylvania,” from about the early eighteenth century, which was owned by Joseph Bringham, at least in 1712.
6. Further possibilities regarding Johan Vardiman in the DHS catalog due to their time included Penn Family Deeds & Penn Family Papers, Delaware General file 1697-1960, accounts of Delaware archival materials in England, and court documents, 1714-1902 (law cases).
7. Deed indexes for variants of Vardiman/Wardiman in New Castle County yielded no results for the DGS Journal full name index listing. However, the Genealogist located other deed index entries listing William as a party. The microfilm roll containing WXYZ surnames (Indirect-Grantee/Buyer) contained no Ward..., William or Vard... or Verd...³.
8. The Joseph Brown Turner Collection yielded records of the Wardman family, which the Genealogist checked based on only one missing letter (“i”), but this was another family (Joseph Wardman of Great Horton, County York, England (1600s & earlier to 1791))⁴. There were no indications of other locations or of a break in filming, and the records appeared English. The records were handwritten notes.
9. The Genealogist could not consistently obtain images of Christopher Verdimen’s 1799 probate file that were clear enough to read and its script was too difficult for the Genealogist to read⁵.
10. The only record located at the DHS was a published tax list (1785, Baltimore Hundred, Sussex County) which named Christopher and Henry Verdimar[sic]⁶. The originals should be at the DPA if they survived.

Research Notes

1. The DPA Small Manuscripts Collection (RG 9200) contained the following, according to its table of contents, but no manuscripts about Wardiman/Verdiman or variants:
 - Papers of Phillip G. Baynard
 - Letters of John Dickinson
 - Papers of Ethel Pennewell Brown
 - Florence Lewis Collection
 - Marshall Family
 - Ridgely Family

² Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. *Ships’ Passenger Lists* (<https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Ships-Passenger-Lists.aspx> : accessed 18 November 2022).

³ Delaware Public Archives. RG2555.011 Reel #2. Recorder of Deeds, New Castle County. Indirect Deed Index (Grantee) MMc 1640-1873 to WXYZ 1647-1873.

⁴ Delaware Public Archives. Joseph Brown Turner Collection. RG 9010.000 Roll #042 (Wainright to Weed 1900-1935). Images 0459-0472.

⁵ Delaware Public Archives. Sussex County Probate Files (RG 4545.009, Roll #250). Christopher Verdimen, 1799.

⁶ Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Delaware 1609-1888*. Vol. II, pp.1340-1.

2. The search through V surnames in the indirect New Castle County deed index was performed scrolling the microfilm backwards.

Suggestions for Further Research

1. Examine DPA Church Records (histories of churches) to see if they contain baptismal records.
2. Re-examine the script that was too difficult for the Genealogist to read.
3. If desired, search for the original tax list published in Scharf.
4. Consult the Maryland State Archives (MSA) regarding Maryland land patents taken up prior to 1776 (mainly in Sussex County, Delaware) referred to by Scharf. Verdimar/Vardiman land may be included, if the family moved to Sussex County before 1776 or Appoquinimink Hundred land was ever included in Maryland records. Another research timeline end point may be the circa 1708 birth (according to the Client's prior research) of John (I)'s daughter Jane Margarita (Margaret). This is because apparently by that time, the family was living in America.
5. Consult all rare book index cards at the DHS library (organized by publication year).
6. Consult the catalog of & reference archivists & librarians of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.