Diehl Family Connection to Showalter's and Showalter Family Roots  
Generation 1 – Peter Showalter, 1802-1886

On October 1, 1865, Mary Showalter (1845-1937) married Josiah Diehl (1842-1927) in Rockingham County, VA. For more about Mary Showalter's life, please see article titled, “Diehl Family – Earl Cline Diehl, Sr., 1893-1958, and His Diehl Ancestry.”

Josiah and Mary were born and raised in the Sunnyside area, near North River. Mary was the daughter of Peter and Frances Baker Showalter.

Peter Showalter purchased a farm of 110 acres for $1,000 in 1827 from Jacob Shirey and Ann Altaffer. It is on Rt. 668 (E Timber Ridge Rd.) and its intersection with Rt. 672 (Mill Creek Church Rd.). His wife, Frances Baker, whom he had married the year before, was raised nearby. The farm bordered that of his maternal grandfather, Valentine Saufley. Peter lived here until his death in 1886.

“There were ten children reared to manhood and womanhood – five boys and five girls. Naming them in order, Isaac Showalter, who died near Mt. Crawford, VA in 1897; John Showalter of Middlebury, IN, who died in 1888; Ann E. Beahm of Bedford County, who died May 14th, 1891; Jacob Showalter of Goods Mill, VA, who died July 1st, 1895, Elizabeth Harshbarger who died in 1882, of Goods Mill, VA; Samuel B. Showalter of Middlebury, IN, who died in 1903; Frances E. Good, wife of F. J. H. Good of Penn Laird, VA; Mary Diehl, wife of J. H. Diehl of North River, VA; Peter Harvey Showalter, and Rebecca Diehl, wife of Amos Diehl, Nokesville, VA”

Frances Baker Showalter's family had attended Friedens Reformed/Lutheran Church, whereas Peter was raised a Mennonite. The family, however, became members of the Mill Creek Church of the Brethren. Perhaps it was a religious compromise or merely the fact that Mill Creek was closer than either the Pike Mennonite or Friedens.

Below: Satellite view of the Peter Showalter farm of 1827 at the intersection of E. Timber Ridge Road and Mill Creek Church Roads, southeast of Cross Keys, VA. Mapping application is PlatPlotter.

Civil War incidents at the Peter Showalter Farm

During the Civil War (September 29, 1864), fifteen to twenty soldiers of Sheridan's army confiscated two horses from Peter Showalter at his farm. The officer in charge left a note that no buildings on the farm were to be burned in exchange for the horses.

Peter made a claim against the US government in 1871 to receive compensation of $240 for the horses. The deposition indicates that Peter was opposed to secession and that his loyalties remained with the Union. He sent two of his sons across the lines in order for them to avoid Confederate service. The claim, however, was denied. Mathias Diehl, a neighbor who had known him for forty years, testified that Peter Showalter was a loyal Union man and had been threatened with other Union men. ²
The writer taped an interview with Ethel Diehl Bauserman, granddaughter of Mary Showalter Diehl, in 1990, and she related these Civil War happenings on the Showalter farm from her grandmother, with whom she had spent much time as a young person.

Ethel: “Oh yes. She said that when they came through up there, she and Becky (her sister) went to Sherman or whoever it was, she said from where they lived they could count 13 barns burning - kinda lived up on a hill. You know where Edwin Showalter lived. She said they could count the smoke from 14 barns. And I said what did you all ... did they take your things? And she said, 'No.' Says, 'we took our best horses up in...'. Of course then you know all young people had a horse of their own like kids today with cars. She said, 'We took all the good horses up in the woods. There's a place up there with a pond, and we tied them by the pond.' Said that they'd get a little grass to eat and water to drink, and, 'We knew they wouldn't starve or perish.' Put them up there - up in the woods. And they said they had hams. And they said they had a patch of corn out in the garden that needs a little working, 'So we got out there and worked it up, and then we hid the hams and the good meat we had, you know in the smokehouse, all under this dirt in the garden. And then you'd let a few old pieces hanging in the smokehouse for them to come along.' And said, 'We left two old horses in the barn.' (Laughter) And said they drove all the cows up in the field back of the hill you know. The milk cows - they didn't get them. And said that they came in the house, and they went to the cellar. Said they took everything they wanted. They went to the cellar and they had then - you know how they had crocks of milk; you know what a crock looks like - on the cellar floor keeping it cool. And she said 'they were the meanest things.' 'They drank all the milk they wanted, and then they poured the other out on the cellar floor.’”
Peter Showalter made this bed of cherry wood as a wedding present for his daughter Mary and her husband Josiah Diehl. There was also a matching chest that was sold at auction in the 1930's. Bed presently owned by descendant of Evelyn Diehl Crosby.

New Testament given to Mary Showalter Diehl, by her father, Peter Showalter. Eye glasses also belonged to Mary Showalter Diehl.
During Peter's later days, son Peter Harvey Showalter's family was living in the same household with him. In an 1883 letter when Peter was 81, Peter Harvey wrote that, “Father's well also.” Several years later in 1886, he wrote that, “We are all well, except Father, his health is failing very much. He is only able to walk out the house a little on nice days. The Dr. says his stomach has worn out.” Later that year, Peter Harvey wrote again, “My Father is still living. He is about like he was a month ago. He only has strength enough to walk about 50 or 100 yards.” On September 5th, he penned, “My Father fell asleep, we trust in Jesus, on the morning of Aug. 5th, last.” Lastly, he wrote in an undated letter, later that year, “You wish to know something about my Fathers last moments. He was sensible to within 15 min of his last breath. No, I am not his executor. There is no need of any. He arranged all his affairs during his life. I have a deed for the farm, and his other property would not amount to more than doctors bill and burial expenses. Ma expects to stay here her lifetime. Fathers brothers Adam and Henry and his sister Leana (Carpenter) were at the burying and funeral.”

Tombstone of Peter Showalter at Mill Creek Church of the Brethren.

Tombstone of Frances Baker Showalter, mother of Mary Showalter Diehl, at Mill Creek Church of the Brethren.

Mill Creek Church of the Brethren cemetery in 1909. Susannah Swope Showalter, Peter's second wife, is also buried in this cemetery.
Jacob Showalter, Generation 2

Peter Showalter's parents were Jacob (1772-1851) and Sophia Saufley Showalter (1779-1845). Jacob was born in Pennsylvania, but his family moved to the Broadway, VA area about 1788 when he was sixteen.

Jacob Showalter purchased a farm of 130 acres in 1794 on Brocks Creek, at the foot of the eastern slope of Little North Mountain, about two miles west of his father's home when he was only twenty-two years old. The view, below, of this farm is taken from the southwest border and looks to the northeast across the property. New Market Gap in the Massanutten Mountain is in the far right distance. It is .9 mile south of Rt. 259 and on both sides of Turleytown Road.

Jacob married Sophia Saufley, daughter of Valentine, on July 21, 1797. In a Rockingham County Census, taken in 1784, Valentine Softly (sp) was in the List of Anthony Rader, who lived in the Broadway/Timberville area. His List included names such as Andes, Trumbo, Bryan, Brannaman, Bowman, Rife and Teeter, families all known to have lived in the nearby Linville Creek area at that time. It is likely that Jacob Showalter met Sophia Saufley while Valentine Saufley was living close by. By 1788, Valentine Saufley had moved his family across the county to settle in the Sunnyside area, near the North River and Scott's Ford. In spite of the thirty miles separating them, Jacob and Sophia were married, and they lived on Brocks Creek until about 1829 when Jacob sold the farm.

Jacob's family had been members of the Mennonite Church, but Sophia came from a Reformed tradition. Her father, Valentine, is buried at Friedens Church which was used by both Lutheran and Reformed congregations. This is an unusual union in that most Mennonites stayed within the faith or married with closely allied members of the German Baptist Brethren (Dunkards).
Below: Marriage Bond of 1797 signed by Jacob Showalter and Valentine (Sofftel) Saufley, both of whom were literate. Jacob's family were members of the Mennonite church.

Jacob and Sophia were parents to sixteen children born between 1798 and 1823 on their Brocks Creek farm. Daughter, Hannah Showalter Byrd, recorded their dates of birth along with the vital statistics of Jacob and Sophia. Hannah's beautifully written record is on the following page. It was found on findagrave.com.
The ages of Father, Mother, and family respectively.

Jacob Shewalter was born June the 15th, A. D. 1812.

Sophia Shewalter was born October the 10th, 1777.

Jacob Shewalter was married July, the 21st, 1797.

Elisabeth Shewalter was born April, the 31st, A. D. 1798.

Catharine Shewalter was born June, the 9th, A. D. 1800.

George Shewalter was born November, the 16th, A. D. 1802.

Peter Shewalter was born February, the 22nd, A. D. 1802.

Margaret Shewalter was born August, the 21st, A. D. 1803.

Hannah Shewalter was born November, the 28th, A. D. 1804.

William Shewalter was born April, the 14th, A. D. 1806.

Daniel Shewalter was born June, the 15th, A. D. 1808.

Sophia Shewalter was born December, the 8th, A. D. 1809.

Jacob Shewalter was born May, the 211st, A. D. 1811.

Nancy Shewalter was born January, the 12th, A. D. 1813.

Adam Shewalter was born April, the 21st, A. D. 1814.

Mary Shewalter was born July, the 21st, A. D. 1815.

John Shewalter was born January, the 21st, A. D. 1817.

Henry Shewalter was born June, the 211th, A. D. 1819.

Eleanor Shewalter was born September, the 31st, A. D. 1823.

George Shewalter died February, the 3rd, A. D. 1821.

John Shewalter died February, the 5th, A. D. 1823.

Sophia Shewalter died June, the 24th, A. D. 1845.

Jacob Shewalter died October, the 24th, A. D. 1851.

Hannah O'Byrne.
Jacob sold the Brocks Creek farm in 1829 and moved his family about twenty miles to the southeast. He purchased, from Henry Harshbarger, a new farm of 152 acres, a few miles south of Harrisonburg on modern day Route 11. The property was on Cooks Creek according to the deed, and today’s Blacks Run was called the South Fork of Cooks Creek.

The deed provides a misleading clue pertaining to its location. The first survey call terminates “near the Meeting House” which one might expect to be the Pike Mennonite Church to the south. This is not the case because Henry Harshbarger’s farm was about two miles north of the Pike Church. Land for the Pike Church was purchased in 1825 from the Wenger family. When Jacob Showalter purchased this farm in 1829 from Henry Harshbarger, Harshbarger had owned it since 1813. Therefore, this reference is to another “meeting house.” This same structure was also referenced in the 1813 deed when Harshbarger purchased the land and was noted as “the chapel.” Henry Harshbarger did not provide the land for the Pike Mennonite Church site in 1825, and, therefore, his farm did not include that location. The writer has not been able to determine what denomination worshiped at this site on the Harshbarger farm. The Pike Mennonite church is the only one, nearby, which survives from this era. Perhaps there was an, heretofore unknown, Mennonite meeting house in this area which has been lost to history that was located on the Harshbarger property.

Jacob Showalter and his new neighbors, the Wengers, formerly of the Edom area, were a core group for the new Mennonite congregation in this area. The Mennonite Landes family also had a farm nearby. The Pike Mennonite Church was the first congregation in what they referred to as the Middle District, and it was the second Mennonite Meeting House built in Virginia. Prior to the Meeting Houses, the Mennonites worshiped their respective homes and barns.

*Below: View of Jacob Showalter farm, south of Harrisonburg. It lies between West Mosby Road and Route 11. View is to the west, about 110 yards west of Rt. 11 and includes the southeast extremity of the farm. Most of the northern part of the farm has been developed with commercial and residential buildings. Part of the land was east of Route 11 and bordered Cook's Creek, according to the deed.*
Jacob Showalter died on October 8, 1851, and he is buried about ½ mile from his farm in the Early Cemetery. The Early Cemetery, on a knoll, had a lovely view of the surrounding countryside. Today, it is difficult to find in a sea of commercial and industrial businesses. It is at the southeast corner of the Harrisonburg Auto Auction parking lot, behind Nielsen Construction.

Sophia Showalter died six years earlier on June 24, 1845. She is likely buried in the same cemetery, but there is no surviving grave marker for her.

_Below: Southwestern portion of Jacob Showalter farm taken from West Mosby Road. View is to the east, and Massanutten Peak is in the left distance. Apartment buildings are just over the crest of the hill._

_Left: This large house is on the Jacob Showalter property. An 1866 map of Rockingham County indicates that a Shaver family lived here. It is 200 yards west of Route 11 and is immediately behind Harrisburg Honda. It affords a beautiful view across the Valley to the east and may have been the site of an earlier home occupied by Jacob Showalter._
Daniel Showalter, Generation 3

Daniel Showalter (1738-1822) was the father of Jacob Showalter, immediately above. Daniel was probably born in the Palatinate region of Germany. When he was twelve years old, in 1750, his family migrated to Pennsylvania.

In 1751, Daniel's father, Jacob Mathias Showalter (~1696-1773), purchased 450 acres along the Lehigh River in Northampton County, PA, where the town of Northampton is today. Daniel, himself, was shown as a taxpayer in Northampton County in 1762.

In 1770, Daniel moved to Chester Co., PA and purchased land along the main highway, present day Route 30, leading from Philadelphia to Lancaster. Daniel is shown on the Chester County militia records in 1780 and 1781.

In 1792, Daniel moved his family from Pennsylvania to Broadway, VA about 1792. His great-grandson, Peter Harvey Showalter wrote in 1885, “My father (Peter Showalter, above,) says that his father, Jacob Showalter was about of age when they came to Virginia, counting from the date of his birth would show they came about 1792 or 93.” A list of “Tithables” was taken in Rockingham County in 1792, and Daniel Showalter is not included. He must have come late that year or early 1793. Daniel's brothers, Christian, Ulrick and Valentine are in the 1792 list of “Tithables,” all in Militia Co. #6 which covered the Linville Creek area.

This Daniel Showalter farm is about one mile west of Broadway on Cedar Run Creek, approximately ½ mile south of where it enters the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. The farm had about 170 acres and was on both sides of Cedar Run.
Below: The modern, two story, frame, farm house stands on the site of the original home.

Above: Daniel Showalter farm on Cedar Run, view to the north towards Route 259.
Daniel Showalter's wife was Maria Saunders (1743-1816). Maria had emigrated from Germany with Daniel's family. It is not known what her relationship was to the Showalters, but Daniel, nonetheless, married her in 1760.

Daniel and Maria were buried in the Trissels Mennonite Cemetery, a few miles south of their farm and shown at left.

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Jacob Mathias Showalter (the immigrant) Generation 4

The father of Daniel Showalter (1738-1822) was Jacob Mathias Showalter (~1696-1773). Jacob was probably born in the Rhineland-PFALZ (Palatinate) region of Germany. The Showalters were originally from Switzerland, but they moved to Germany in the late 17th century.

Jacob immigrated to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with his wife and eleven children on November 3, 1750, aboard the ship, Brotherhood. By 1757, he had purchased a 450 acre tract about 65 miles northwest of Philadelphia along the Lehigh River at the site of present day Cementon, PA.

Jacob was a founding member of the Siegfried Mennonite Church that was built just across the Lehigh River from his farm. The church was established by 1760. When Jacob died in 1773, he was buried in the church cemetery. The only remaining vestige of the cemetery is a monument to Col. John Siegfried on, or near, West 21st St. in Northampton. Col. Siegfried, a Revolutionary War hero, was also buried in this cemetery, and the monument was erected there in 1914. All other remnants of the church and cemetery have been covered and lost.
The European Story: On the eastern borders of Switzerland, there lies the small principality of Lichtenstein. Near it's castle is a small town called Schan surrounded by the Schanwald or "Beautiful Forest." Legend says that early in the 1400's a man from this forest came in the vicinity of St. Gallen in Switzerland on the shores of Lake Constance. After the fashion of the times, he was known to his neighbors as the "Schanderwalder" or "man from the beautiful forest." In time the name became Schanwalder, Schawalder, Schoenwalter, Schonwalder, Schowalder, and soon, until today in the United States it has become either Schowalter or, as in our case, Showalter. The birthplace of the Showalter family, according to the earliest record, was in Strengalbach, a village five miles west of Zofingen, Canton (county) of Argua, Switzerland. Here some baptismal records list the children of Silvestor Schowalder; born about 1550, and his wife Barblin Huntzinger. Of their five children, the first baptized on April 12, 1573. The last entries were two children of Hans Joggi (Jacob) Showalder and his wife Anna Bannwart: On October 20, 1695 Anna was listed and on June 13 1697 Joggeli was listed. There were no Schowalders recorded after 1697 because of emigration. The Schowalder emigration took them out of Switzerland down the Rhine into Germany where they settled into the Palatine of the Province of Bavaria. Many by the name of Schowalter reside there still. Some of these emigrated from Bavaria to Holland and then to America in the middle 1700's. One such was Jacob Showalter.

The American Story: Jacob Showalter, the ancestor of our family, was born about 1694, probably in Basel Switzerland. About 1721 he married Maria (possibly Saunders, possibly Funk). In 1744 they emigrated to Holland. In 1750 on the ship "Brotherhood" Jacob and Maria and their family of eight sons and three daughters arrived in Philadelphia on November third. Jacob Sr. and his sons Jacob, Johannes (John), Joseph, Christian and Peter were among the 119 "signers" of the list, indicating that they were 16 or older, since those under 16 did not sign. His other sons were Valentine, Daniel and Ulrich; his daughters were Barbara, Margaret, and Martha Anna.

The family, except Christian, settled in 1751 on the west bank of the Lehigh river on a 450 acre tract of land which later was included in the confines of Whitehall Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Today the town of Cementon stands where his land was. Son Christian settled in the Cocalico Township of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

When the French and Indian wars broke out in 1758, Jacob and his sons became involved. Nicholas Marks of Whitehall Township on October 9, 1763 gave a report on an Indian attack which appeared in the colonial newspaper "The Pennsylvania Gazette", it can be found in the book "Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania -- Vol. 1 pages 164-174. Marks said that after dinner, as he opened his door, he saw an Indian standing about 2 poles from the house who tried to shoot him, but Marks quickly shut the door. Then the Indian slipped into a cellar close to the house. Marks, with his apprentice boy George Graff, and his wife ran to Philip Jacob Schreiber with the news -- in the process of making their escape they were shot at by a second Indian; a third was running through the orchard. Two miles away they stopped at Adam Deshler's house where 20 men at arms were stationed. They all went first to the house of John Jacob Mickley where they found a boy and girl lying dead and the girl scalped. From thence they went to Hans Schnieder's: his wife and three children were dead. His house was burning, he also was dead and all were scalped. On the return to Adam Deshler's they found Jacob Alleman's wife with a child lying dead in the road
and scalped. In the summer of 1763, after a raid at the Stendon house, Indians plundered James Allen's house; a short distance off, they attacked Andrew Hazelet's house. Hazelet attempted to fire on the Indians but missed and was shot in front of his wife. She ran off with two children but was pursued and tomahawked along with the children. A party of Indians went to a place on the Lehigh river a short distance from Siegfried's bridge (where Jacob Showalter's farm was). Here 12 Indians were seen by Ulrich Showalter (son of Jacob), wading across the river. Ulrich was at the time working on the roof of a building and had a good chance to count them. It is not known if they were seen by anyone else until they reached the farm of John Jacob Mickley. Here they encountered three of his children in a field, under a chestnut tree. Henry 9 years old, and Barbara 7 were tomahawked, Peter 11 escaped.

In 1759 a political figure of the area successfully laid claim to Jacob Showalter's land. He sold it to William Allen (founder of Allentown), who then sold part of the land back to the family. The movement of the family began in 1769 with son Valentine the first to leave. During the next three years, the father, John, Daniel and Joseph followed him. Jacob Sr., Jacob Jr., Valentine, Joseph, and Daniel settled in Chester County Pennsylvania: Valentine, John, and Daniel in Tredyfferin Township and Joseph in Charlestown Township. In 1788, 1789 and 1790, a movement to Virginia took place. Daniel, Ulrich, and Valentine went to Shenandoah and Rockingham Counties, Virginia.

A more complete excerpt of this book can be found at: http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgiop=GET&db=dorster&id=I5139&style=TABLE

A SHOWALTER LINEAGE from SWITZERLAND in 1566 to ALSACE, FRANCE, to RHINELAND-PFALZ, GERMANY to OHIO, U.S.A.

Please see this web link for the complete article, which is very well written and researched.
http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bart/Showalter.htm#_edn28

The chief source of data for the early Showalters is Rev. Paul Schowalter’s Genealogical Book of the Showalter Family, (1979) which was translated into English by Richard L. Showalter and has been presented to the Mennonite Heritage Center by Roy Moab Showalter.

JACOB MATHIAS SCHOWALTER, born ca. 1696 on the Schafbusch, married MARIA ELIZABETH SAUTER/SAUNDERS/SUTTER(?). ca. 1720, died 28 Apr. 1773 in Northampton Co., Pa. Maria was born ca. 1706. On 3 Nov. 1750 Jacob and his family arrived in Philadelphia aboard the ship “Brotherhood” from Rotterdam via London. By 1759 Jacob, Sr., and his sons John & Joseph, owned land in Whitehall Twp., Northampton Co., Pa. Jacob was a leader in the Siegfried Mennonite Congregation. Later the family moved between Lancaster and Philadelphia before finally settling in Chester Co. Jacob wrote his will 7 Mar. 1767 in Whitehall Twp., Northampton Co., Pa.[22]

Sons Jacob, Jr., Christian, Valentine, Joseph, Daniel and possibly John all fought in the Revolutionary War. Son Ulrich was a member of the Rangers of the Frontier.[23]

The children of Jacob (VII) and Maria Schowalter were:

i. PETER SCHOWALTER, born 1722, died 1775-8. He may have been killed by Indians in Bucks Co., Pa. Carl Sellers (ksellers@mcs.k12.nc.us) and Sally Carter (MtnRivers@aol.com) are descendants.


iii. MARGARET SCHOWALTER married PETER BASSLER. The Bassler family had accompanied
the Schowalter family to America.

iv. CHRISTIAN SCHOWALTER, born 1727, married BARBARA SHERRICK, died in Apr. 1805 in Franklin Co., Pa.

v. BARBARA SCHOWALTER, born 1733, married Rev. HENRY FUNK, died 1824 in Singers Glen, Rockingham Co., Va.[24] Henry was born in 1730, died in 1817. Henry was a son of Heinrich & Anne (Meyer) Funck.[25] He was a Mennonite minister having been ordained in the Swamp district of Franconia, Montgomery Co., Pa. in 1768. He was excommunicated because of the War Tax issue ca. They moved to Rockingham Co., Va. in 1786. Henry & Barbara had a daughter ELIZABETH FUNK who married her cousin Jacob Showalter (see ¶viii. below).

vi. JOHN SCHOWALTER married ESTHER FUNK, died in 1805 in Chester Co., Pa. where he was a preacher. Esther was a sister of Henry Funk (see ¶v. above).

vii. JOSEPH SCHOWALTER died in 1802 in Chester Co., Pa. He was a Mennonite minister and was ordained prior to 1773. He was a minister at the Siegfried Mennonite Church where the immigrant Schowalter family worshipped when they settled in America. Later he was the preacher at the Charlestown Mennonite Congregation in Chester Co.

viii. VALENTINE SCHOWALTER, born 1738, married ANNA FUNK in 1765 in Pa., died in 1803 in Rockingham Co., Va. Valentine & Anna had a son JACOB SHOWALTER, born 1767. Jacob married his cousin, Elizabeth Funk, ca. 1790 in Montgomery Co., Pa. Elizabeth was a daughter of Henry & Barbara (Showalter) Funk (see ¶v. above).[26] Valentine & Anna also had a son JOSEPH SHOWALTER.[27]

ix. DANIEL SCHOWALTER, born 20 June 1738, married MARGARET SUTTER (SAUNDERS) in 1760, died 10 May 1822 in Broadway, Rockingham Co., Va. Margaret was born in 1734, died 1 Feb. 1816 in Broadway, Va. In 1770 they moved to Chester Co., Pa. In 1780 Daniel was muster fined £1/4/1 while a private in Capt. Rowland’s Company, Chester Co. Battalion. Then on 19 April 1781, he was muster fined $4.00 while in the 5th Company, 4th Battalion, Chester Co.[28] In 1788 Daniel followed his sister Barbara and family (see ¶v. above) to Rockingham Co., Va. Members of the Sutter family also settled in Rockingham Co. In 1538 Jacob Suter of Switzerland had been persecuted for his Anabaptist faith.[29] Their son JOSEPH SCHOWALTER (1776-1838) married ANNE RHODES (1780-1853) 18 Feb. 1799 in Rockingham Co., Va. Roy Showalter is a descendant. A John Rhodes, Mennonite minister, born near Zurich, Switzerland, emigrated to America in 1728, settled in Shenandoah Co., Va. in 1730 and later moved to Page Co., Va. (immediately NE of Rockingham Co.). In Aug. 1766 Indians massacred eight members of this family. A son was held captive by the Indians for two years.[30]

x. MARTHA ANN SCHOWALTER married (1) JOHN TRESSLER, married (2) JOSEPH TRISSEL. They settled near Broadway, Rockingham Co., Va. The Tressler Mennonite Church near Greenwood, Del., was begun in 1914. The heirs of William Tressler donated a school building and ground to the church. In 1822 the first log meeting house of the Trissels Mennonite Church was built four miles southwest of Broadway. One of the first ministers serving this church was a Henry Rhodes (see ¶ ix. Above).[31]


[22] Chris Hawkins at http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=hvmo&id=I3692
[23] Data provided by Carl Sellers, ksellers@mcs.k12.nc.us
Following is a tentative pedigree chart for Jacob Mathias Showalter, the immigrant. This pedigree is not proven, and there are other pedigrees listed at Rootsweb for him that vary from this one in some details.

WPD

/Hans Schowalder b: ABT 1525
 /Silvaster Schonwalder b: ABT 1550
/ Silvester (Vester) Schowalder b: ABT 1598
 |       |       /Joseph Widmer
 |       |   
 /Jakob III Schowalter b: 1620
 |   /Barbli Jaggi
 | /Jakob IV Schowalter b: ABT 1646 d: ABT 1731
 |   /Margarethe Luetwyler
 /Jacob V Showalter b: ABT 1674

Jacob Mathias VI Showalter b: ABT 1696 d: 28 APR 1773
Appendix 1, “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

One Showalter cousin, Anthony Showalter, wrote the well-known hymn, “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.” Anthony was a third cousin to Mary Showalter Diehl, (1845-1937).

“Anthony Johnson Showalter (May 1, 1858 – September 14, 1924) was an American gospel music composer, teacher and publisher. He was born in Cherry Grove, Virginia. Showalter was trained in the Ruebush-Kieffer School of Music and was teaching in singing schools by age fourteen. In 1884, he formed the Showalter Music Company of Dalton, Georgia. He was also an elder of the First Presbyterian Church in Dalton.

“Showalter's best known song is "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms", which was published in 1887. He wrote the music and chorus, and Elisha A. Hoffman wrote the verses. The song features prominently in the score of Night of the Hunter and forms about a quarter of the score of the 2010 film True Grit.

“Showalter authored several rudimentary books on music theory and a book on harmony and song composition. These were widely used in singing schools across the South. He died in Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1924 and is buried at West Hill Cemetery in Dalton.”

Songbook written by Anthony Showalter and A. S. Kieffer: Published in Dayton, VA 1882
Appendix 2. Showalter family chart showing descendants of Matthias Showalter, the immigrant (~1696-1773).
Appendix 3 - Correspondence of Peter Harvey Showalter, 1847-1909, with George H. Pennypacker, regarding Showalter Family History

Peter Harvey Showalter was a younger brother to Mary Showalter Diehl, 1845-1937, and he corresponded with his second cousin George H. Pennypacker of Pennsylvania in the 1870's and 1880's about the Showalter Family History. Fifteen of Peter's letters are preserved at the Eastern Mennonite University, Menno Simons Historical Library, along with one other letter from Peter's uncle, Adam Showalter, dated 1875.

George H. Pennypacker, 1814-1902, was the grandson of Elizabeth Showalter Pennypacker who married John C. Pennypacker. His father was John S. Pennypacker. Although George H. Pennypacker lived most of his life in Pennsylvania, he is buried in Bridgewater, VA.

The transcribed letters are in order of sequence. Spelling, capitalization, grammatical errors, though few, have been left in place. Punctuation has been added for clarity.

Letter # 1. Written by Adam Showalter, 1814-1891, (son of Jacob) of Rockingham Co. Va. He was an uncle to Peter Harvey Showalter who wrote the rest of the letters, below.

Mount Clinton Va.
March 4th 1875

My Dear Cousin (George H. Pennypacker) in the first place I must ask you to pardon me for not answering your letter sooner the reason was that I could not get the information that I wanted to fill your request. I wrote to my Brother Peter to go to see Aunt Agnes Showalter. She is 83 years old. Peter (Peter Harvey Showalter's father) was here last night and today with much more information than I ever expected to get in regard to the ancestry of the Showalter(s). Had it not been for this old Aunt we should have known but little in regard to our ancestry. She says my Great Grandfather's name was Mathias who came from Germany with seven sons and two Daughters and another girl by name of Margrett Saunders who afterwards married Daniel, one of the seven sons my Grand Father. One of the Daughters married a man by name of Funk the other married Tristle according to the best information I can gather this the ancient Family settled in Pa about 130 or 140 years ago this family of children all married in Pa. Some of them removed to the Western part of that State and several families came to Va where they have multiplied greatly. I cannot give the exact number of my Fathers posterity in children and Grand and Great Grand children. I suppose it will range somewhere between 200 and 300 myself being a Great Grand son of the first Mathias. My posterity in children and Grand children number 31 now if you will take the pains to ascertain the posterity of your Grandmother Pennypacker you will have some idea of the number of the posterity of the first Mathias it will run into some thousands and all the Showalters that I ever knew or heard of in this vast country originated from this family, The Great Grand Mother's name previous to marriage I could not ascertain. This is about all the information I can give you in regard to your request.

In religion they were Mennonites persuasion. As respects health of the relationship all are in usual health except Peter Swank he is failing. As we got so much information from old Aunt I feel like reverencing her more than ever. Had it not been for your urging this thing I should never known but little about our ancestry a thing that will be pleasant to think and talk occasionally while I live. Since writing the above I examined your letter find that you wished to know from what part of Germany our Progenitors came from. I can't give you any satisfaction in regard to this request. I omitted a sentence
which I wished to relate in regard to the Family above spoken of. We can find several of the successors
named Mathias to represent the first Mathias and several Margarets to represent the first Margarett.

Write soon
Adam Showalter

Letter #2 written to Germany inquiring about European Showalter roots
Meyerheffers Store
Rockingham County State of Virginia U.S.A.

Sept the 28th 1882

Mr _____ Showalter. Kind Sir I take the liberty to write to you to ask of you the favor of all the
information obtainable about our name and Family. I am much interested in Family history and there
being a number of Showalters in this Country especially this County I am anxious to trace our
ancestors as far back as I can. About the year 1760 My Fathers Great Grand Father Mathias Showalter
came from Germany. He had with him 7 Sons & 2 daughters the names of 3 of the Sons were Daniel
Ulrich & Henry. With them came Margueret Saunders whom Daniel Married and they
were my Great Grand Parents. My Grand Fathers name was Jacob and my Fathers name is Peter.. You
will oblige me very much by answering these questions or as many of them as you can. 1st What part
of Germany did Mathias Showalter come from 2nd how far back can you trace his ancestors and what
were their names 3rd how did the name originate 4th to What Church do most of the Showalters in
your Country belong 5th What is your relationship to Mathias Showalter above mentioned who came
from your country to ours. 6th What is the name and address of the oldest Showalter known to you
now living in your country. I learned your name and address through the courtesy of S. W. & G. H.
Pennypacker of Penn. Please address me as at head of this letter. Yours truly

Peter H. Showalter

Letter #3
Meyerhoeffers Store, VA Nov. the 5th 82 (?)

G. H. P. (George H. Pennypacker) Dear Cous I re'ed your last letter yesterday. Sorry to hear of you
failure at Skippack (PA). Hope to hear better things of you yet. My Father knows nothing about his
Fathers Birthplace But he can answer the queries of you other letter. Yes Mrs Funk & Mrs Tristle were
daughters of Mathias Showalter, Sisters of Daniel our Ancestor. Their names I have not learned.
Ulrich and Henry Settled in Va. Henry in Franklin Co and Ulrich here in Rockingham & their des'ts
(descendants) are mainly in VA yet. I have not taken my trip yet on that Bible hunt. Expect to go in
about a week

p. 2

Here is Daniel Showalters Family, entire according to my Fathers memory – Jacob oldest son, Joseph,
David, Daniel, George, John youngest son, Elizabeth Pennypacker oldest daughter, Mary Swank,
Catherine Rodeffer, Nancy Rodeffer and Margaret Heatwole youngest daughter. I had no objection in
the world to your Boiling down my letter to Germany. Anything so the desired end is attained. I thank
you for the trouble you have taken with it. And hope to hear from it Soon. The Pennypacker History is very interesting and creditable to the Name. Shall I keep it or Send it Back by mail or otherwise if you(r) son visits us this winter he could get it. But I would like to own it. I think your son nearst point here is Port Republic. Let me hear from you Soon. As ever yours  P. H. Showalter

Letter #4
Dec the 29th 82 (1882)  Dear Cous. Hope you will excuse my long delay but I failed to get my trip on account of Sickness & we are all well now. Hope this will find you and yours the same. I have written to Some Showalters I have heard of lately, one 92 years old in Alleghany Co this State. I will give you the result if there is any. I have heard nothing from Germany yet. My Father Says he heard his Father Say they came from Amsterdam in Holland. Not Surprising how long Similarity Continues in a race of People. I hope it will not offend you to Say there is a Strong resemblance between you and old Bishop Winegaert as per your pamphlet. 
Yours truly                    P. H. Showalter

Letter #5
Scotts Ford, Rockingham, Co. VA
Dec. the 2nd 83 (1883)
G.H.P.13  Dear Cous  Glad to hear from you after so long delay. During which I suppose I had as little time to write as yourself. We are well hope this will find you & yours the same. My Uncle's & Aunts are about the Same as when I last wrote except Aunt Groves14 Family. Father's well also. I have never got a reply from Germany. But like yourself I found an old Showalter by accident rather I think he is of a generation older than my father. He is in his 89th year But has no mind. He lives in Montgomery Co his name is Nicholas. He is a son of Henry that I told you had went to Roanoke Co.
p 2.
I will Send you his son's letter in reply to one I wrote the old man. You can take his address and correspond with him and return the letter when we and you write through him. We learn of another son of Mathias named John which makes 4. You will see by the letter that Wm Showalter thinks there was 8 Bros came from Germany. ----- of one which might be so as we have no evidence in the contrary. Uncle Adam tells me there is a man at Harrisburg Pa who can tell of all the Emigrants that ever came to PA and where they came from. If you can find out his address my opinion is that we an learn more there than from all other sources combined. I was down at Dan'l Showalters during the summer. Got ---- recorded in order of their Births. Will send to you some time. Will send your Book Shortly. Would have sent it sooner But looked for you up this fall. I remain as ever yours truly
P. H. Showalter

Letter #6
Scotts Ford    Feb 23rd ..85

Dear Cous  Your interesting letters came to hand last week. Glad to hear from you once again. Hope this will find you and yours in good health. We are having some winter for the past week. Thermom as low as 14 below zero. 6 or 8 in of Snow. Will answer your queries as well as I can. My Fathers health is about as usual. He was 83 yrs old yesterday. Uncle William died 3rd of this month of no Particular Disease. A general Break down. Uncles Adam and Henry were at the Burial. They were well. Yes Miss Luverna is still at home and single. William Showalter of Montg. Co. writes interestingly. But he makes Religion & Politics a little to near him for me. I am glad you still take an interest in the
Showalter History. I am sorry to say that I am so much engaged in other affairs that I cannot give it much attention. However I will as far as I am able answer all the questions you have or shall ask. As to the wives of Daniel Showalters Sons you are right in all but one. Agnes, Davids Wife, was a Linville. I will name the Family as near in the order of their Births as my Father remembers. Elizabeth. Jacob. Mary. Joseph. Catherine. David. Nancy. Daniel. George. Margaret. John. My grandfather Jacob Showalter was Born June 15th 1772  D. Oct the 8th 1851
Sophia his wife Born Oct the 10th 1777  D. June 24, 1845
They were married July 21st 1797.
Elizabeth Bright Born April 29th 1798  D. Feb 28th 1867
Catharine Evers Born June the 9th 1799  D. Oct 19th 1865
Geo S.  B Nov 16th 1800  D. Feb 3rd 1821
Margaret Whitehurst  B. Aug 20th 1803  D. Sept. the 5th 1879
Hannah Bird  B. Nov. 23rd 1804
Wm S.  B. April 14th 1806  D. Feb 3rd 1885
David S.  B. June 13th 1808 D. March 25th 1867
Sophia Grove  B. Dec. 3rd 1809  D. March 19th 1883
Jacob S.  B. May 21st.1811  D. July 2nd 1869
Nancy Coffman  B. Jan. 12th 1813
Adam S.  B. April 27th 1814
Mary Parrett  B. July 21st 1815  D. Sept. 16th 1878
John S.  B. Jan 2nd 1817  D. Feb 5th 1828
Henry S.  B. June 21st 1819
Leana Carpenter  B. Sep 31st 1823

Uncle Swank that you refer to was named Jacob he was deranged some 15 or 18 years. lost his mind on account of his sons being drafted into the War. Your Uncle, Daniel Showalter, my Father says died shortly after his return from the War of 1812 about 30 years of age. Who was those Wash. City relatives you spoke of. I can't make out the name right. I am sorry too they did not get to see us any time you wish to come and I will meet you at Port Republic SVRR. I would like very much to take a trip with you among the Showalters of S.W. Va. But it is not likely I will be able to do so. I remain as ever your humble cousin.
P. H. Showalter
P.S. Our Annual Conference will be held at Whitsuntide in Juniata Co. your state. The Lord willing I may be able to pay you a short visit then. How far is that from your town?

Letter #7
May the 4th 1885

G. H. Pennypacker  Dear Cous  I received your welcome letter Sometime ago. Was waiting to gather some History for you before I wrote to you. Cousin Samuel Whitmer, Mt Crawford, this Co, Tells me he was down in Pa. few years ago and brought some of the Plastering from the house that Great Grand Father lived and moved from to this State. It is a Stone house across the River, East of Phoenixville, 1½ or 2 miles.

My Father Says that his Father, Jacob Showalter, was about of age when they came to Va. counting from date of his Birth would show that they came about 1792 or 93.

I herewith send another list of Joseph Showalters Family. He was an uncle of my Father. Elizabeth Rhodes Daniel
Here is Uncle David's Family Record.

Sons
David Sr. Oct 30, 1781
Benj Nov 5, 1812
Matthies Aug 2, 1818
John March 2, 1820
David March 4, 1824
Geo. Mar 11th, 1826
Wm Jan 11th 1832
Louis May 16th 1834

Daughters
Agnes Sr. Jan 30, 1794
Elizabeth Nov. 17, 1811
Melvina Feb 5, 1815
Ann Nov 5, 1816
Catharine Feb 17th 1822
Marg July 10th 1827
Sarah Aug 18th 1836
Lucy Sep 2nd 1837

I have some smaller matters noted down which I will tell you when you come up. I am fixing to build a house and kept very busy. Uncle William was a member of the Mennonite Church.

P. H. Showalter

Letter #8
Scotts Ford March 27th 1886

Dear Cousin. After a long delay I inform you that I read your last some 2 month ago. As I have learned nothing new in our line I did not write. Been waiting to hear from you again. We are all well except Father his health is failing very much. He is only able to walk out the house a little on nice days. The Dr Says his stomach has worn out. Hope you are well as ever.

P. H. Showalter
April 22, 1886

G. H. P. Dear Cous. I would have wrote sooner but I was looking for “Rupps 30,000 Names” and failed to get it. Gen. Roller loaned it and forgot who got it. He is very much exercised over it. I am glad to hear you are getting enthused and hope you will carry the work to a successful completion. Your last contains some interesting discovery’s. But please allow me to correct you in subtraction. You say in regard to the time that the farm and mill came into the hand of your old John Showalter that 110 taken from 1886 leaves 1796 whereas it is 1776. As to my old John there is no certainty as to his being a brother to Henry, Ulrich & Daniel, and I am willing to drop him in favor of your John as I think yours is much the clearest withal.

P. 2

The old Benj that told me of him only thought he was a brother of Henry's because of his age and as we made out when you was here that Henry was one of the youngest of the family. This John might have been a nephew (nephew) of his, a son of one of the older ones likely in Pa. So we will not analyze him any further at present. Your Memoranda says this that Joseph Showalters farm was Deeded to him in 1772 and sold it in 1803. So you see that he got his deed only 4 years prior to the time John got the Mill property. They were undoubtedly brothers and also brothers of our ancestor Daniel. Now you have Jacob to find yet. And Christian and perhaps Peter and the chain will be linked.

P. 3

You asked about our relatives. My father is still living. He is about like he was a month ago. He only has strength enough to walk about 50 or 100 yards.

Aunt Mary Showalter is ill with consumption it is thought. Uncle Samuel Carpenter is also ill. Not likely to recover. Bronchitis some say chest dropsy. They have bought a lot on the hill N.W. 1/2 mile of where they did live. Uncles Adam & Henry were here a few days ago. Adam had a spell of pneumonia this winter but has about regained his health. My family are well. And hoping this will find you & yours in good health and that you will write soon. I remain yours etc

P. H. Showalter

Letter #10

September 5, 1886

Dear Cousin

My father fell asleep in Jesus on the morning of August 5th last. And since my mind is so much occupied is the reason that I have not replied sooner. Am sorry to hear that you were again frustrated in your investigations. Hope to hear of your better Success. P. H. S.

Letter #11

(Undated but late 1886 or early 87)

G. H. Pennpacker Dear Cous. After a long delay for which I hope to be excused. I will try to answer your last welcome letter. Glad to hear that you have not given up the search for our ancestors yet. Hope you will finally succeed. We have had a very dry fall again. Wheat is not looking well. We are having a nice rain now. You wish to know something about my father’s last moments. He was sensible to within 15 minutes of his last breath. No I am not his executor. There is no need of any. He arranged all his affairs during his life. I have a deed for the farm and his other property would not amount to more than Drs Bill and Burial Expenses. Ma expects to stay here her lifetime. Fathers brothers Adam and Henry and his sister Leana were at the burying (burying) and funeral. We looked for you up this fall but you say nothing about it any more. If things work as I have mapped out I expect to go to Washington DC.
this fall or winter. No more at present. As ever your Cousin   P. H. Showalter

Letter #12
April 19th 87

Dear Cous  Your very interesting letter to hand. I think it is the most interesting letter you have wrote me. Glad you are getting on a "Warm trail." I think you will soon be on the "Home Street."

Two weeks ago I was on Old Great Grandfathers Homestead and looked over the old Deeds. He bought the place of Christian Rotes September 1793 and Woldrick Showalter was to have a right to half the water, from which we may infer that he lived near by and we may also infer that he was a Brother to Daniel. I take it that Woldrick & Ulrick is the same as the spelling was very irregular in those days. According to Levi his grandfather was just four years younger than Daniel which makes it probable they were Brothers and I still believe they with Henry of Botetourt were the youngest of 7 Bros.

Some time during the next 30 days I expect to meet and consult with D A H. (Heatwole) & Uncle Adam after which one of us will give you a full report of the "analysis."
As Ever yours &c

P.H. Showalter  (Peter Harvey Showalter)

Letter #13
Apr 30th 87 (1887)

G. H. Pennypacker
Dear Cousin
Many thanks for your last favor. It was quite a treat indeed. The best lot of letters I have yet Seen on the Subject. Then I notice that you mean business and that you are going to give us a history worthy of the name and you are going to give it Some Size. And if I dont guess amiss you are going to Embellish it with numerous Photo's. That is a bright Idea of yours for that will make it Sell to many who care nothing for Essence of the Book. I was looking over Some old Records at the Clerks Office this week p. 2
And found a new man among the old Showalters. David Daniel & Ulrich were the first assessed then John Showalter & Jos of Ulrich about the same time. Then Jacob of Ulrich & Jacob of Daniel which was my grandfather. No Henry mentioned But I have no Doubt that old Henry of Botetourt Co was a Bro to these older ones. We hope to hold our conference Shortly if we are not Environed with too many other things. We will then run all this through the Analytical Mill and See what it will Pan out. I wish you could be Present. Then could you not come up? I think I can send you the Photo's you ask for. I have a tolerable good one of Fathers that I will have Photographed.
Yours as ever   P. H. Showalter

Letter #14
May 24th, 87 (1887)

Dear Cousin   After considerable delay I undertake to answer your last to me. I have no doubt you have heard Some time ago from Cous David of our Convention. We met under unfavorable
“Environments.” The Mennonite Conference was in Session near there and we had but an hour or two to talk. We were all of the opinion that John of Franklin (Co.) & Henry of Botetourt were Bro's to our Ancestor Daniel as well as Ulrich. We also decided that other Family's of Showalters came over From Germany who were not Bro's to our ancestor. Your letter From J. T. Showalter was quite interesting. I have a letter from Levi Showalter of Smithfield, Pa quite interesting. I will Send you his letters & Mrs Shermans (sp?) and the Photo by this mail and at no distant day will send one of mine and will Expect one of yours in return. I hope you will inform me if you hear any thing from Germany. I left all my letters from you with Cous Dot (sp?) H to read at his leisure. By his assistance you will have valuable ???. Hoping to hear from you Soon. Yours as Ever
P. H. Showalter

Letter #15
Meyerhoeffers Store Va Jun 27 87 (1887)

G. H. P. Dear Cous Your two last to hand and read with pleasure. I have been So busy with the cares of this world that I did not take time to reply to the first and now will answer Both. You are still gathering I See it looks to me that the last information you got from Eostan (sp?) proves that Jacob sr of Rupps Book is the man that owned the 450 acres Bght (bought) of Allen and Jacob Jr, John & Joseph his Sons. But when you come up we will talk it over, Lord willing. Certainly bring James S along when you come if he will. We'll be glad to See you at any time. But as you asked when it would Suit best I will say that any time between 10th of July and 20th of August will Suit best for us. Later than the latter date we, my wife at least, will not wish to receive company. You may guess the reason as you have raised a family. Whenever you come let me know in time and I will meet you at Port Republic or any other near Station that you may name. I herewith enclose My own and Fathers Photos. They are not near so Good as yours. It is Excellent. I have not had time to write to any of the Showalters in the SW. If you write and any wish to come tell them to come to Port Same day you do. I can get you all at once. Yours PHS

Letter #16
July 4th 87 (1887)

Dear Cous. Your last to hand and read with pleasure. We are well. Hope this will find you and yours in good health. We are having a dry Spell now. I do not think there is any Showalters living near Nat Bridge Nor do I know of any in that Co unless perhaps Samuel perhaps youngest Brother of old Daniel that you told me to inquire about Sometime ago may live in that Co. I will try and find out and let you know. Any time you wish to come inform me and I will meet you at Port Rep with conveyance for as many as may come. I handed all your letters to me to Dot Heatwole Sometime ago and among them was the Isaac Showalter letter which I will get for you when you come I here with return Uncles letter. Uncle Adam Says he has his picture ready for you. Yours in haste. P. H. Showalter

PS
Fathers Picture was copied the third time is the reason why it is a poor one.
Below, photocopy of Peter Harvey Showalter letter dated, Sep. 5th '86

Dear Cousin,

My Father fell asleep we trust, in Jesus, on the morning of Aug The 3rd last, and since my mind is so much occupied is the reason that I have not replied sooner. Am sorry to hear that you was again frustrated in your investigations. Hope to hear of your better success P.H.S.

Left: Photo of Peter Harvey Showalter. His nephew, I.N.H. Beahm wrote a short biography titled, “Peter Harvey Showalter” which was published in 1969 by the Beacon Press in Bridgewater, VA. The photo is from that book.
Appendix Four - Showalter Farm Plats and Pictures

**Daniel Showalter, Sr. Farm, just west of Broadway, about 1792.** C. E. Nair recorded that Daniel's farm comprised “a little less than 200 acres.” The two tracts in the photo total 172 acres, and there was a third tract of 39 acres, about 1/2 mile due north and on the other side of the river. All three tracts totaled about 211 actual acres. Satellite view of plats done with PlatPlotter program by Jason Rushton.
Aerial view (1945) of the Daniel Showalter, Sr. Farm. Compare to the modern satellite view, above, and note far fewer trees on the farm. Photo courtesy of US Geological Survey.
The picture, below, is from a booklet published in 1943, titled, “Family Record of the Showalters” compiled by Preston M. Showalter, Maugansville, MD 1943. The booklet states that, “This picture of the old homestead was taken shortly before Moab H. Showalter moved to Maryland showing the old carriage and four team of horses that he and his family drove to Maryland. In the foreground are Moab Showalter, his wife Annie and the four children, Armanda, Alvah, Amos and Bertie.” Picture courtesy of James Rush and Elwood Yoder of “Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians.” and Eastern Mennonite University, Menno Simons Library.

The present writer interviewed Mr. Gerald Crider in March, 2018. Gerald's grandfather, William Elrod Parks, once owned this home site, the newer, existing home having been built. He purchased it from the Hoover family. Gerald, 81 years old in 2018, had lived his entire life on the adjoining farm, which is between the Showalter place and Route 259. The windmill in this photo was still standing in Gerald's lifetime. He stated that this view of the Showalter house was taken from the west side of Cedar Run, which can be seen in the foreground. The view is to the east, and two of the outbuildings are still standing.

The narrow, two-story, frame structure is consistent with the one being moved by the mule team, below. Trees now line both banks of Cedar Run at this point.
Photograph of the Daniel Showalter, Sr. home being moved to make way for a new structure, about 1918. Picture courtesy of James Rush and Elwood Yoder of “Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians.” View is to the north.

C. E. Nair in his “History of Cedar Run Community” (1948) was specific about the location of the house stating, “The house built by Emanuel Hoover stands where the old house stood, on the plateau east of the run. At the first the water was carried up the hill by hand to the house until a well was dug.”

Mr. Gerald Crider identified the man handling the mules as Frank Will and the gentleman on horseback as Mr. Emanuel Hoover.
Jacob Showalter (1772-1851) farms.

Jacob Showalter purchased from William Davis, 1794, 130 acres on Brocks Creek at the foot of North Mountain. Actual survey is 150 acres instead of 130 on the deed. This property is in the same location as a later deed concerning Jacob Showalter in 1825 and overlaps it, somewhat.

Satellite plat views prepared with PlatPlotter program, written by Jason Rushton.
In 1830, Jacob Showalter moved from the Cootes Store area and purchased a farm a few miles south of Harrisonburg on Route 11. The first segment of the survey was described, “Beginning at a stake on the east side of the road Corner to Coffman's land and with his lines ... to a take near the Meeting house.” Sixteen years earlier in 1814, when Henry Harshbarger bought this same property, the first segment of the survey terminated at “a stake near the Chappel.” Could this have been an unrecorded predecessor to the Pike Mennonite Church, which was built around 1828, two miles south? The writer has not been able to find any reference to another denomination's church building at this location. This Pleasant Valley area, along Rt. 11, was well-populated by 1815 with Mennonite families including Landes, Wenger, Early, Heatwole, Rodes and Weaver.

Below, Jacob Showalter farm of 1830 roughly overlaid onto 1885 Lake Atlas of Rockingham County, showing that the only structures on the property were the Shaver house (still standing) and an unknown structure on the west side of Rt. 11 (Valley Turnpike).

Unionists and the Civil War Experience, Rodes & Wenger, 2003; pages 598-615

Peter Harvey Showalter corresponded with his second cousin, George H. Pennypacker of Pennsylvania in the 1870's and 1880's. They had a mutual interest in the Showalter family history. Sixteen of the letters written by Peter Harvey Showalter are preserved at the Eastern Mennonite College Library. The full text of the letters is in the appendix to this article.

Rockingham County Deed Book OO, p. 65.


Rockingham County Burnt Deed Book 9, p. 377 & 378.

History of the Showalter Family, 1964; Portia Showalter Everett, p. 32

Peter Harvey Showalter letter to his second cousin, George H. Pennypacker, dated May 4, 1885. Full contents of the letter is included in the appendix.

History of Cedar Run Community, 1948; C. E. Nair; p. 18.


Agnes Linvil Showalter, 1794-1875, married David Showalter, 1781-1858.

GH Pennypacker was a second cousin of Peter Harvey Showalter. Peter's great aunt Elizabeth Showalter married first, John Pennypacker and secondly, James Pennypacker.

Sophia Showalter Grove

Rupp, Daniel, “A collection of upwards of thirty thousand names of German, Swiss, Dutch, French and other immigrants in Pennsylvania from 1727 to 1776: with a statement of the names of ships, whence they sailed, and the date of their arrival at Philadelphia, chronologically arranged, together with the necessary historical and other notes, also, an appendix containing lists of more than one thousand German and French names in New York prior to 1712” published 1876.

Daniel Showalter farm on Cedar Run, just west of Broadway, VA.


Revised March, 2018