

Johan “Valentine” Velten Shults Research Project

14-Day Mini Challenge

10 February 2024

OBJECTIVE

Discover why Johan “Valentine” Velten Shults emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1731 from Germany. Johan was born on 24 July 1715 in Darmstadt, Hessen, Germany, and died on 16 November 1745 in Manchester, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He first married Elizabeth on 10 September 1731 and second Maria Eva Stocker on 16 October 1735 in Conestoga, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

LIMITATIONS

- This phase of the project was limited to 20 hours.
- Only records available online were used.

RESULTS SUMMARY

- Discovered many theories about the birth, parents, and migration of Valentine Shults, including two main theories centered on two different sets of parents: Heinrich Christof Schultz and Sophia Margaretha of Darmstadt, Hessen, or Gabriel Shultz and Anna Margaretha of Pfaltz, Alsace.
- Researched the history and geography of the southwest German region where the Palatine Germans originated. Learned that religion persecution, economic challenges, and political upheaval resulted in widespread emigration to the colonies.
- Found the pull of Pennsylvania rested upon the promise of joining family members, availability of land, and the promise of prosperity.
- Studied the records kept upon arrival for the German Palatines and discovered three lists for Valentine Shults: the ship list, his oath of allegiance, and his oath of abjuration. Analyzed these records and postulated that Valentine was one of 29 men who appeared single, with no women or children of the same surname listed.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Much information about the earliest Shults ancestor, John “Valentine” Velten Shults, has been written and published online.¹ He was born on 24 July 1715 in the German territory of Hessen-Darmstadt and christened four days later on 28 July 1715.² His parents, Henrich Christof Schultz and Sophia Margretha welcomed him as the fourth child of eleven.³ Valentine emigrated to the Pennsylvania Colony in 1731 and married Maria Eva Stocker on 16 August 1735 in Lebanon, Pennsylvania.⁴ Some researchers have also attributed a first wife named Elizabeth to Valentine.⁵

Two theories have been published about Valentine’s origins.⁶ Theory one places Valentine in the family of Henrich Christof Schultz and Sophia Margretha of Hessen-Darmstadt. Three of this family's sons emigrated to the colonies: Hans Martin, Johan Heinrich, and Johan Velten. Theory two places Valentine in the family of Gabriel Shultz and Anna Margaretha of Pfaltz, Alsace, Germany. They also had a large family. One son, Johann Martin Schultz, emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1721.⁷ Additional research can sort out the various records and

¹ Eli and Betsy McCarter Family, Ancestor of the Month: Johan Velten (Valentine) Shultz, posted August 2008, (<https://huskey-ogle-family.tripod.com/ancestorarchives/id30.html> : accessed 28 January 2024), sketch formerly published on the McCarter-Hater Website.

Daryl Hutchinson, contributor, 4 August 2021, "New Life in America and Sources," Johann Valentin Schultz 1715-1745 LZ4K-XRK, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/130540374> : accessed 28 January 2024).

Jim Shults, "notes from Jim Shults: Johan Velten, Ha," Collaborate, Johann Valentin Schultz LZ4K-XRK, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/collaborate/LZ4K-XRK> : accessed 28 January 2024).

Nicole Elder Dyer, contributor, 11 April 2014, "Johann "Valentine" Velten Shultz," Memories, Johann Valentin Schultz 1715-1745 LZ4K-XRK, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/6479038> : accessed 24 January 2024); citing Donald B. Reagan, *The Book of Ragan/Reagan*, 1993 p. 399-400.

Donald P. Reagan, Ch. 25 "Valentine Shultz," *The Book of Reagans* (Donald B. Reagan, 1993), p. 399-401; digitized book, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/293541/> : accessed 24 January 2024), image 408 of 481.

² "Deutschland Geburten und Taufen, 1558-1898", (German Births and Christenings), Johann Valentin Schultz, 1715, database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NCCY-V32> : accessed 23 January 2024).

³ FamilySearch Family Tree, Johann Valentin Schultz 1715-1745, LZRK-XRK, details, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LZ4K-XRK> : accessed 4 February 2024). Indexed christening records for the children of Henrich Christoph and Sopia Margareth Schultz can be found on each persons sources page.

⁴ "Pennsylvania, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Marriage Records, 1512-1989," entry for Maria Eva Stocker and Valentine Schultz, 16 Aug 1735, image 264 of 639, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6CYF-KVJ8> : accessed 23 January 2024); Greens and Browns Collection, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Vol. II, York, York Co., Pennsylvania, Baptism 1776-1801, Marriages 1735-1798, Deaths 1748-1794, p. 257.

⁵ FamilySearch Family Tree, Johann Valentin Schultz 1715-1745, LZRK-XRK, details, a marriage date o 10 September 1731 is listed in Darmstadt, Hesse, Germany, but no source document is attached.

⁶ Eli and Betsy McCarter Family, Ancestor of the Month: Johan Velten (Valentine) Shultz, posted August 2008, (<https://huskey-ogle-family.tripod.com/ancestorarchives/id30.html> : accessed 28 January 2024), sketch formerly published on the McCarter-Hater Website.

⁷ FamilySearch Family Tree, Gabriel Schultheiss 1660-1730, LRN1-88C, details, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LRN1-88C> : accessed 4 February 2024).

associates to make a positive case for the theory of Valentine's parents as Christof and Sophia Shults. For this paper, these will be assumed to be correct.

The surname is spelled in various ways: Shults, Shultz, Schults, Shulz, Schulz, and Schultz. The spelling Shults will be used unless a record is quoted.

History and Geography

Two locations are of interest: that of Valentine's home country and that of his new country. Beginning with the home country, the Hessian region was part of the Holy Roman Empire that covered most of Central Europe from 800 to 1806. It was governed first by Charlemagne then by a series of rulers until the Napoleonic era when it was dissolved. After the death of Philipp 1 "the Generous" in 1567, the duchy of Hesse was divided into four regions, one for each of his sons. The Hessen-Darmstadt territory was located in the south and was one of the largest. However, the territory split further into other splinter states.⁸

Valentine emigrated to the British colony of Pennsylvania along with thousands of other Palatinates. William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, proselyted heavily among religious dissenters in the Rhine Valley, and by 1710, immigration had increased significantly. Most of these immigrants hailed from the southwest regions of modern Germany. Religious persecution influenced these early immigrants. Another push factor for leaving the home country was the continual wars between the German principalities and France. These had begun with the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) and continued throughout the 1700s.⁹ Thus, southwestern Germany's economic, political, and religious upheavals prompted emigration to the colonies. Colonization was promoted in personal letters, widely distributed pamphlets, and advertising campaigns in newspapers.¹⁰

The map in Figure 1 shows the southwestern portion of Germany with Darmstadt, Hassia (Hessen), highlighted. A baptism record for Valentine Shults places him in Darmstadt in 1715. He would have grown up with stories of other young men immigrating to Pennsylvania to escape conscription and seek a better life.

⁸ Wikipedia contributors, "Holy Roman Empire," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Holy_Roman_Empire&oldid=1203305031 : accessed February 4, 2024).

⁹ The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, "German Settlement in Pennsylvania An Overview," *Exploring Diversity in Pennsylvania History* (https://hsp.org/sites/default/files/legacy_files/migrated/germanstudentreading.pdf : accessed 28 January 2024).

¹⁰ Marianne S. Wokeck, "The Flow and the Composition of German Immigration to Philadelphia, 1727-1775," *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* v. 105 (July 1981), 275; (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/20091588> : accessed 2 February 2024).

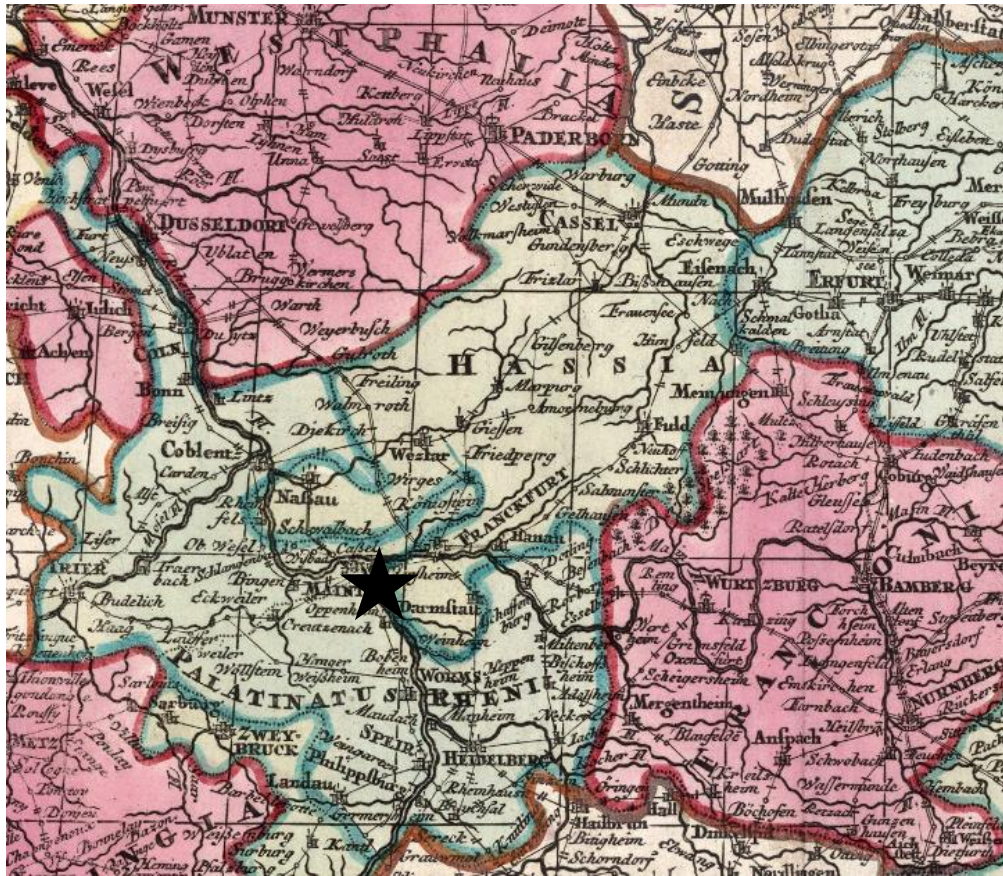


Figure 1 Postarum . . . Germanium, 1729, David Rumsey Map Collection¹¹

Arriving in Pennsylvania

The 18th-century German emigration to the colonies was the largest influx of non-English-speaking people. In 1717, when the foreign Protestants began arriving, Governor William Keith suggested a qualification procedure for registering aliens. This became a law in 1727, and although it covered all foreigners, only the Germans seemed to have complied. Additionally, only the lists of passengers who arrived in Philadelphia have survived. A few of those include people of French or Spanish origin.

Pennsylvania leaders were concerned with this influx of non-English-speaking people. The oaths of allegiance were a first step to eventual citizenship and permitted the settlers under British rule to purchase and sell property. Two years later, they were required to sign a declaration of abjuration against the Pope and the Stuarts and a declaration of fidelity to the

¹¹ Matthaeus Seutter, "Postarum . . . Germanium," 1729; David Rumsey Map Collection (<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~283621~90056113:Postarum-----Germanium-> : accessed 26 January 2024).

proprietor and the laws of the province. The law produced three lists that have proven invaluable in tracking German immigration to the colonies and identifying the earliest German immigrant.

1. Captains list (marked A)
2. Names of those over 16 - oath of allegiance (marked B)
3. Declaration of abjuration (marked C)

Although captains were to list occupations, most did not. They also did not indicate where a passenger originated on the continent. Some captains added the ages. Between 1727 and 1775, captains were more careful because they had to swear an oath that their list was correct. However, almost 2/3 of the lists were lost because, after 19 Oct 1736, the immigrant signatures were no longer added and incorporated in the presence of the Provincial Council and added to the minutes. Instead, the lists were written on large loose sheets that disappeared. The c lists are the most complete and are the declaration of abjuration and fidelity. These records have allowed researchers to analyze the immigration patterns of the Germans who arrived in Pennsylvania during the 18th century.¹²

In 1732 and 1738, the largest or most crowded ships carried disproportionately high numbers of 20-year-old men. The number of 18-year-olds increased significantly, unlike at any other time. The reason being a new conscription law in the Palatinate that did away with the traditional exemption from military service for men engaged to be married or newlywed. It only allowed rich young men to buy out of the draft.¹³

About 17% of all men who immigrated between 1730 and 1750 shared their last name with at least one other man placed next to them on the same ship list. During the 1730s and 1740s - fathers and sons predominantly immigrated together. By the 1750s, the males were younger and more likely to be brothers or cousins rather than father and son. After 1750, there was a decline in the relatedness of German immigrants to each other. In sum, more families came together before 1750, then more unrelated single men were dominant in migration.¹⁴

What was appealing about Pennsylvania? During the 1720s and 1730s - Protestants of different backgrounds were tolerated and their lifestyles accepted. Added to this incentive was

¹² For one example, see Marianne S. Wokeck, "The Flow and the Composition of German Immigration to Philadelphia, 1727-1775," *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* v. 105 (July 1981), 249 - 278; (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/20091588> : accessed 2 February 2024).

¹³ Wokeck, 271.

¹⁴ Wokeck, 272, 273.

land and opportunity. Land prices were relatively low, and wages were high, an excellent combination for an immigrant. The relocation cost had to be paid in advance by cash, so those immigrating had amassed some capital. These circumstances favored immigrants with skills who could earn money with their skill and labor to purchase a farm or set up shop after a few years. If the immigrant also brought family members who would labor on the farm and avoid labor costs, it would be even better. Many of these early passengers were middle-aged and brought families.¹⁵

As word of these favorable conditions in Pennsylvania spread in Germany, the promise of joining friends, family, and neighbors who had already settled in Pennsylvania lured emigrants. Letters home would have been very important. People without money also participated in credit schemes by merchants in transatlantic shipping or speculation.¹⁶

Records Created at Arrival in Philadelphia

As was noted previously, the English colonist's concern with the non-English immigrants resulted in records being created for the Palatine Germans entering Philadelphia in the 18th century. A challenge in using these records is understanding the many derivatives created from the originals. Because the original handwriting is often difficult to read, different interpretations have been made. Also, some of the derivatives arrange the lists in alphabetical order, erasing any clues from groupings that could prove helpful in the analysis. Seeking the original record is always important, and, after that, the best possible derivative.

Derivative Records

In 1856, Isaac Daniel Rupp published *A Collection of Thirty Thousand Names of German, Swiss, Dutch, French and Other Immigrants in Pennsylvania from 1727 to 1776*. He subsequently published a second edition in 1875.¹⁷ This was not a complete list and contained many transcription errors. Additionally, he did not preserve the lists in their original structure and changed headings and the arrangements of names.¹⁸ In 1890, the State of Pennsylvania commissioned Dr. William H. Egle to republish the lists in a more complete form and correct

¹⁵ Wokeck, 276.

¹⁶ Wokeck, 277.

¹⁷ Isaac Daniel Rupp, *A Collection of Thirty Thousand Names of German, Swiss, Dutch, French and Other Immigrants in Pennsylvania from 1727 to 1776 . . . , 2nd Ed* (Philadelphia: Leary, Stuart & Co., 1875).

¹⁸ Ralph Beaver Strassburger and William John Hinke ed., *Pennsylvania German Pioneers; A Publication of the Original Lists of Arrivals in the Port of Philadelphia from 1727 to 1808* (Norristown, Penn. : Pennsylvania German Society, 1934), xli; digitized book, Internet Archive.

(<https://archive.org/details/pennsylvaniagerm42stra/page/42/mode/2up> : accessed 28 January 2024). Several examples of issues with Rupp's work are given in this section of the book.

errors from Rupp’s work. Egle corrected the headings but used the same names that had been interpreted by Rupp, many of which were misspelled and not in the original German.¹⁹ In 1934, Ralph B. Strassburger and William J. Hinke revisited the lists with the following objectives.

- “present all the lists that are now in existence in full, without any change or abbreviation”
- “[print] the name in the exact order as found in the originals”

Great care is given in this edition to explain the three types of lists, editing rules used in the transcriptions, and the interpretation of the lists. The editors explain:

“The main emphasis of the editor has been laid throughout upon the proper decipherment of the names of the passengers. Wherever there was more than one list of a ship, the names on the different lists have been carefully compared. From this comparative study of the lists, many new and better readings have been obtained. There are, however, many names which defy all pain and patience to read them correctly. In these cases a question mark, enclosed in square brackets, indicates the uncertainty in the reading.”²⁰

Arrival of Johan Valentine Shultz

As noted previously, three lists could have been created when a German immigrant arrived in the colonies: the captain’s list (A), the oath of allegiance (B) and the oath of abjuration (C). In the case of Valentine Shults, all three lists appear in Strassburger and Hinke’s *Pennsylvania German Pioneers*.

List A first names the men above sixteen, then women above sixteen years of age, and then children under the age of sixteen. John Stedman, Commander, gave an “account of Palatine Passengers on board of y^e Pensilvania [sic] Merchant . . . from Rotterdam, at the day of their arrival at Philadelphia, September y^e 10th 1731.” Among these were the following Shults individuals who may or may not be related.²¹

¹⁹ Strassburger and Hinke, xliii.

²⁰ Strassburger and Hinke, xlv.

²¹ Ralph Beaver Strassburger and William John Hinke, *Pennsylvania German Pioneers; A Publication of the Original Lists of Arrivals in the Port of Philadelphia from 1727 to 1808* (Norristown, Penn. : Pennsylvania German Society, 1934), 42; digitized book, *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/pennsylvaniagerm42stra/page/42/mode/2up> : accessed 28 January 2024). Many

Men above 16

Valentine Shults

Hans Martin Schults

Women above 16 years of age

Cathrine Shultsone

Eliz. Shultsone

Children under 16

Jacob Schults

Is the order of the names important? Only two men over 16 have the same exact last name, Frans and Jacob Kryke. They are listed together whereas Valentine Shults and Hans Martin Schults not only have different spellings but are also separated in the list by several men. However,

For the women about 16, several women are grouped by surname, including the two Shultsone women. The same holds true with the children under 16. Those of the same surname are grouped. It would seem that several families made the voyage together.

As part of the analysis, men, women, and children with the same surname were grouped and the following observations were made.

- 29 men appeared to be single, with no women or children of the same surname listed
- 28 men had women or children of the same surname listed
- 21 women did not have the same surname as a man
- 3 children did not have the same surname as a man or woman

Accounts of similar voyages speak to the death that occurred during the voyage, and the number of children without a parent, women without a husband, and men without a wife could perhaps be in part because of the death of family members.

Valentine Shults likely was a single man seeking his fortune and traveling alone. Alternately, his wife or sister could be one of the Shultsone women, as assumed by past researchers, or she could have died on the voyage. Additional research will be needed in the records and the associates on this voyage to make further connections.

versions of these lists exist online and in books. This is likely the best interpretation of the original passenger list based on the front matter describing the process of correcting errors from previous transcriptions.

This group of Palatines has all three lists available for analysis. By comparing the captain’s list (A), the Oath of Allegiance (B), and the Oath of Abjuration (C), many of the surname spellings were corrected in lists B and C. Perhaps the captain spelled the name as he heard it in the native German and when the oaths were recorded at the courthouse, the men themselves recorded their names. The order is preserved on all three lists.

The two Shults/Schultz men had little difference in spelling, and although other men used Hans or Johann before their second name, Valentine did not. However, Valentine almost certainly could not write. “Initials and marks of persons who could not write have been enclosed in round brackets (), to distinguish them from the signature made by the clerk.”²²

| Captain’s List A Men over 16 | Signers of the oath of allegiance List B | Signers of the oath of abjuration List C |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Valentine Shults | Valentine (+) Shults | Valentine (O) Shults |
| Hans Martin Schults | Hans Martin Schultz | Hans Martin Schultz |

The image of the original List C clearly shows Valentine’s signature with the “his mark” inserted, indicating that he took the oath of abjuration, denouncing his allegiance to the Pope.²³

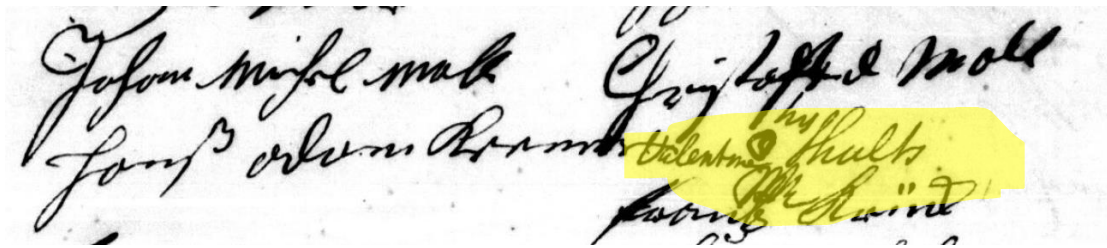


Figure 2 List C Valentine Shults signature

What about Hans Martin Schultz? He did sign his own name, and again he was not listed next to Valentine.

²² Ralph Beaver Strassburger and William John Hinke, *Pennsylvania German Pioneers; A Publication of the Original Lists of Arrivals in the Port of Philadelphia from 1727 to 1808* (Norristown, Penn. : Pennsylvania German Society, 1934), xlv; digitized book, *Internet Archive*

(<https://archive.org/details/pennsylvaniagerm42stra/page/n57/mode/2up> : accessed 28 January 2024).

²³ Pennsylvania State Archives, “Ships Lists Of German Passengers (Roll 4231)”, Ships Lists of German Passengers, 1727-1808, Valentine Shults, 1731,

(https://digitalarchives.powerlibrary.org/psa/islandora/object/psa%3A1407332?page_pid=psa%3A1411344 : accessed 10 February 2024).

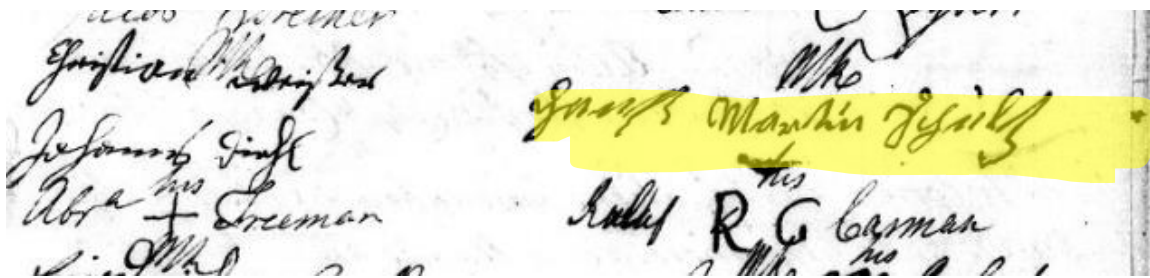


Figure 3 List C Hans Martin Schultz's signature

Viewing the list in its entirety shows the variation in signatures and that most of the men were literate and could sign their name. See Figure 3.

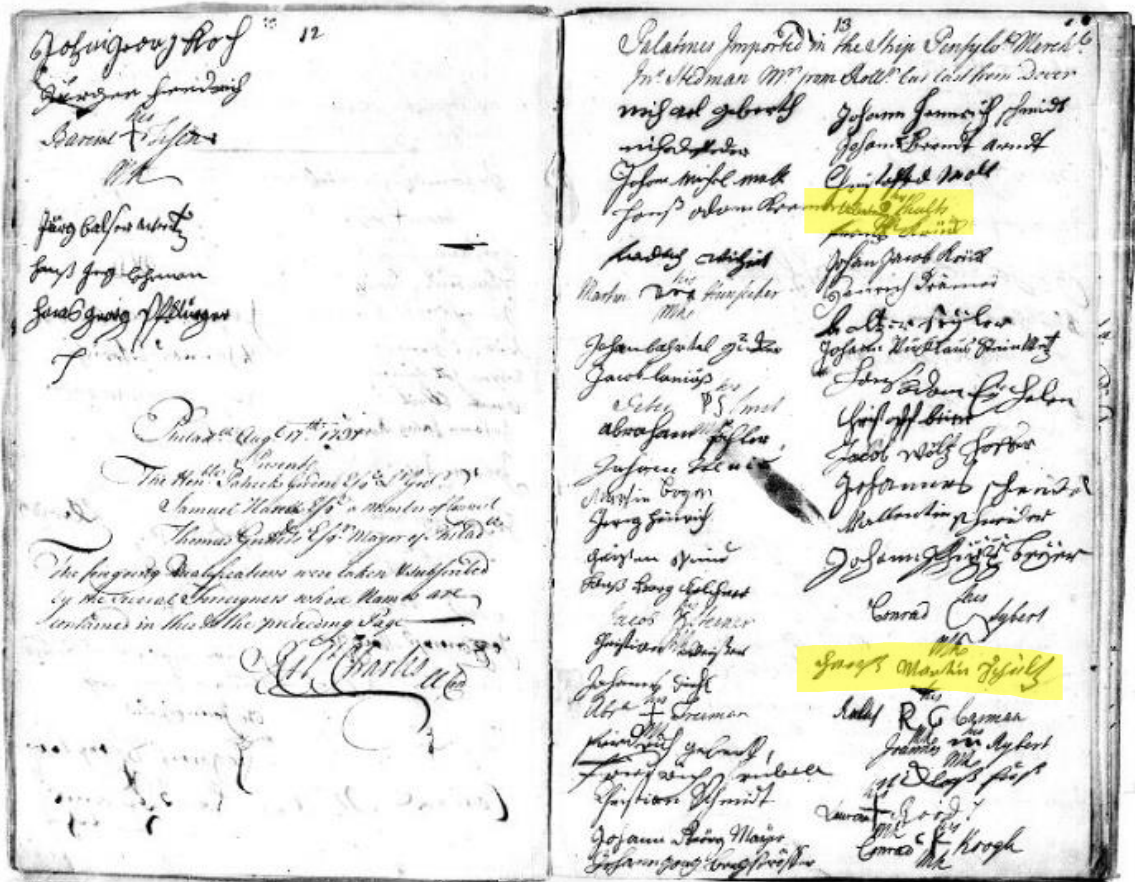


Figure 4 List C Palatines Imported in the Ship Pennsylvania Merchant, John Stedman, Master, from Rotterdam, but last from Dover. Valentine [his mark] Shults and Hans Martin Schultz highlighted.

CONCLUSION

If the Valentine Shults of the immigration lists were indeed the Johan Velten Schultz of Darmstadt, Hessen, who was born on 24 July 1715 and died on 16 November 1745 in Manchester, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, he would have been just 16 years old on 10 September 1731 when he arrived in Philadelphia. He was illiterate, unable to sign his own name, but he had survived a rigorous journey and started a new life by signing his oath of allegiance to the colony of Pennsylvania.

With the best possible record discovered for Valentine's immigration, a list of fellow passengers has been identified that could clarify more about his origins in the Germany of the 18th century.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- Sort out the two theories for Valentine Shults' birth family. Research the siblings and parents for each theory in Germany and the colonies.
- Research Valentine Shults in the context of his fellow passengers and immigrants. Discover connections that would place him either in the Darmstadt family or the Alsace family.
- Seek out the original records for Valentine in his new location of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.