

## **Jacob Holtzclaw**

By Jacob Jepsen

Do you know who built the first iron furnace in Virginia? If not, I'll take you behind the scenes of Jacob Holtzclaw, the greatest great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great grandfather in all time!

Jacob was born in Truppbach, Germany in 1683. He became a school teacher in Germany. He was twenty-five when he married his wife Margret. They later had two boys named Henry and John.

In April 1714, thirty-one year old Jacob and twenty-eight year old Margret took their two sons across the Atlantic to America with eleven other families. They settled in Germania, Orange County, Virginia. They built the first iron furnace and manufactured the first pig iron in American for Governor Spotswood. Jacob founded the first German reformed church in America also! After six years in Germania, Jacob Holtzclaw and the other families from Germany were able to have their own land farther to the north. They called the town they founded Germantown.

During their first year in Germantown, the colonists packed their provisions from Fundericksberg. Jacob and his family had to walk thirty miles. They raised their first crops using only hoes. There were no draft animals to help. Men and women worked hard. After a few years, they were able to purchase more horses and land. In fact, when Jacob died, he had three-thousand acres of land! He divided it up amongst his children and grandchildren, each getting two-hundred acres.

Their land was good and prosperous. They used their money wisely and soon became very comfortable. Jacob became mayor and one of the three founders of Germantown.

Jacob had a large family. They include John, Henry, Ann Elizabeth, Katharine, Hyrum, Elizabeth, Alice Katharine, Jacob Jr., Joseph and Eve. Wow what a bunch of kids!

Jacob Holtzclaw's descendants have shown their loyalty to their country by serving in all the wars that been fought by the United States. Here's how they served their country. French and Indian War, Revolutionary War, Virginia Militia, North Carolina Militia, Mohawk War, War of 1812, the Battle of New Orleans, the Florida War of 1819, the Mexican-American War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam, Gulf War, Iraq War.

I 'm proud that Jacob Holtzclaw had the courage and faith to bring his family to a new and strange world and how he helped build America into the fine nation it is today.