

PREFACE

The following pages are a reprint of the 38 page 1989 book "A Historical Sketch of the Gohn Family in Canada" by Lloyd B. Gohn (1909-1990). The book outlines his research on the history of the Gohn family in Canada and their origin from the United States and Germany.



Lloyd Gohn passed away in 1990 and the original book is now out of print. It is not the intent to update the book but to make it available to any family researcher that has a connection to the Gohn lines and related families.

The book was provided by Wayne Gohn, the son of Lloyd. With his permission, it is made available here. Per Wayne, "[My father would have been very pleased to have his book put on a website related to the family history.](#)"

Lloyd Gohn descended from:

- Philip Gohn (Abt 1680 – Abt 1744)
- Adam Gohn (Abt 1718 – 1773)
- Adam Gohn (1739 – Abt 1811)
- David Gohn (1787 – 1861)
- George Gohn (1836 – 1906)
- Christopher Wesley Gohn (1877 – 1959)

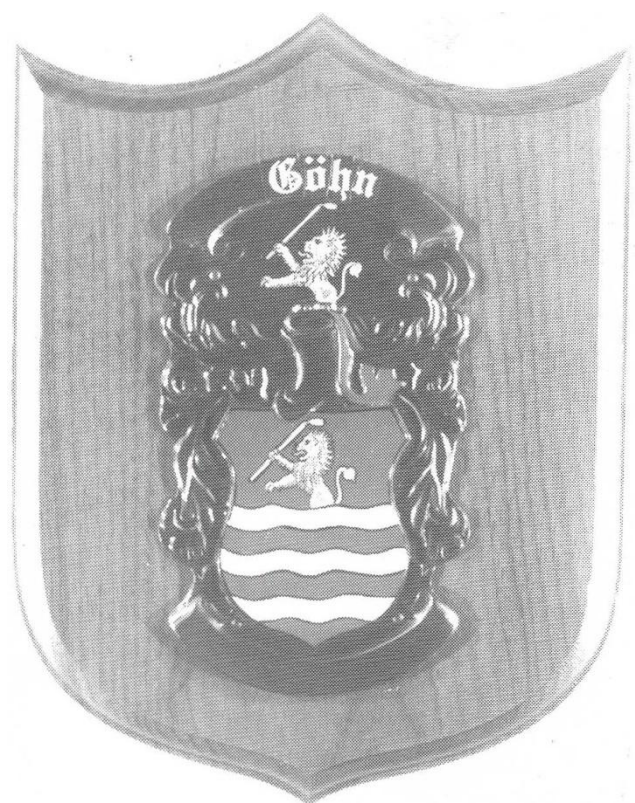
The following pages were first scanned and converted to an editable word processing format. The pages are set up approximately the same as is in the original book. The file was saved in a PDF format to reduce the file size and to allow easy viewing by all.

The pages are essentially like the book. Spelling and grammatical errors are included, and a similar font is used.

12 April 2011

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A Historical Sketch of the Gohn Family in Canada



**Written and Compiled
by Lloyd B. Gohn
1989**

Blazon of Arms

Gohn

ARMS:

Azure, three fesses waving argent,
in chief a lion issuant or
holding in the dexter paw a flail
of the same.

CREST:

The lion as in the arms holding the flail.

INTRODUCTION

The following history of the Gohn family in Canada and their origin from the United States and Germany is the result of many years of research and travel, as well as material derived from original documents in the possession of the writer. Information was also relayed to me down through the years by my late relatives.

Some information was obtained from a visit to the late John A. Gohn and his son, Harry Gohn, at Jennerstown, Pennsylvania. At this time a visit was made to the Hoffman Cemetery at Jenners Cross Roads, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, in 1938. A second visit to this area was made in 1982 when it was learned that both John A. Gohn and son, Harry Gohn, had passed away. A contact was made to a son of Harry Gohn, whose name was Homer Gohn. Homer Gohn and other cousins still live in the area of Jennerstown.

Much credit for the preservation of the aforesaid documents belongs to my late aunt, Mrs. William E. Gohn. A brief history of the Gohn family was written earlier for the Tweedsmuir part of the history of Markham Township, County of York, Ontario. Some early Gohn history in the United States was obtained in 1982 from a personal visit to the Somerset County Historical Society, Somerset, Pennsylvania.

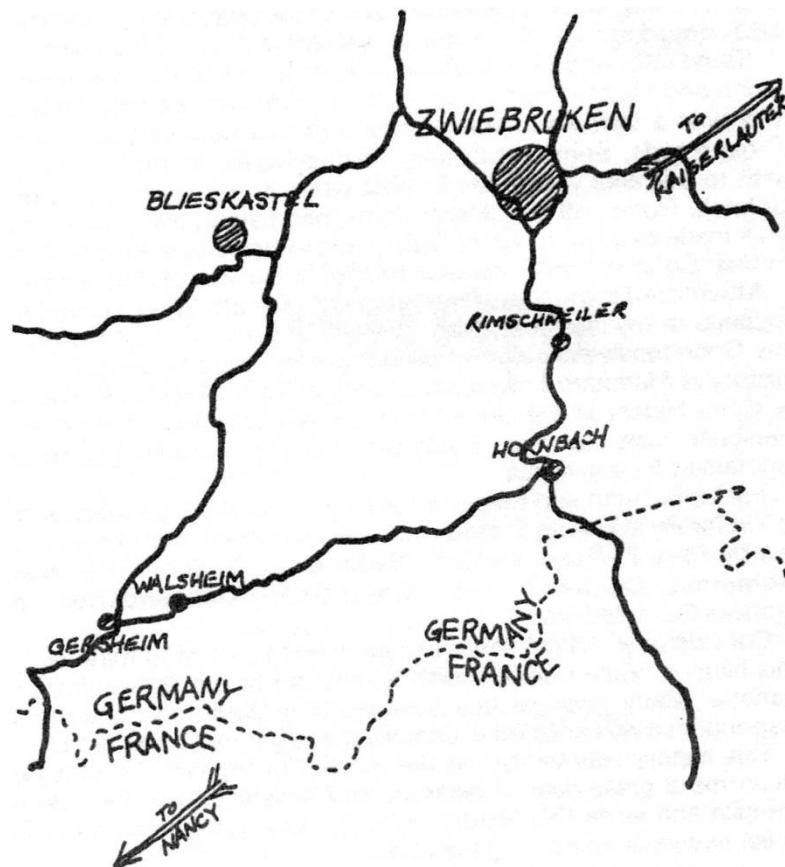
For verification and further information on other members of the Gohn family in United States, reference was made to a history written by Fava E. Goan, entitled "**Gohn-Goan Descendants from Somerset County,**" also "**Coon-Goan Descendants**" by Frances Davis McTeer.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in gathering material for this history, since I am a fourth generation of the Gohn family in Canada. Many miles of travel, hours of research and much correspondence was entailed in compiling and gathering this data.

This history was written at the request of my family and it has given me a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction to be able to compile and write this history, which, I trust, will be of great interest and value to future generations.

Lloyd B. Gohn

GOHN LOCATIONS IN PFALZ, GERMANY



FORWARD

All the Gohns in Pennsylvania were descendants from three Gohn immigrants who landed at Philadelphia on September 19, 1738, on the ship named "The Thistle"; John Wilson was the commander. They sailed from Rotterdam, Holland, via Plymouth, England.

They spoke German only and were all known to be Lutheran by religion. It is known that Lutherans came to New York in 1710 and later. Many travelled on to Pennsylvania about 1729 and later. This explains how they came to live in Pennsylvania about 1739. They were for the most part farmers, millers, etc. The land was very arable and suited to agriculture, so this was possibly the main attraction. However, many Pennsylvania Germans later decided to move. They had suffered from the Revolutionary War 1776-1783, the Shay's Rebellion 1790 and the Whiskey Rebellion 1790. When Governor Simcoe issued an invitation for people in the United States to settle in Upper Canada, many moved North to find a better life.

In Pennsylvania to this day the name "Gohn" is pronounced "Goon" and from books written by other members of the Gohn family in United States, the name had had various spellings such as: "Goan" and "Coon".

CHAPTER ONE

ORIGIN

The first Gohns to emigrate to United States, according to Ralph B. Strassburger and W.J. Hinke in **Pennsylvania German Pioneers** 1:221, 1934, were Philip Gohn, Adam Gohn and John Gohn. They arrived in America from Rimschweiler, Zweibrucken, in the Palatinate, Germany, on September 19, 1738 aboard the ship **The Thistle**. According to the **Pennsylvania German Folklore Society** yearbook 1:222, Philip Gohn was the son-in-law of George Brahr who also came to America at the same time. Philip was reputed to be the father of Adam and John who also come on The Thistle and to be listed as passengers they had to be over sixteen years of age.

PHILIP GOHN:

arrived in America, as stated in the foregoing paragraph. The name of his first wife is unknown. His second wife was Sophia Braher. Philip and his first wife had two sons: Adam, born 1718 and John, born 1720 who came with their parents to America aboard **The Thistle**. Philip and his second wife, Maria Sophia (Braher) Gohn, had three children: Philip, born October 13, 1739, Catherine Elizabeth, born November 16, 1741. Apparently Catherine Elizabeth must have died since the third child was also named Catherine Elizabeth, born September 16, 1744. Philip Sr. died about 1746. He owned 196 acres and allowances in York Township and 227-1/4 acres in Windsor Township, Pennsylvania.

ADAM GOHN:

arrived in the United States aboard the ship called **The Thistle**. He died in York County, Pennsylvania, between May 30, 1766 and November, 1773. He married Mary Catharine....., who probably died in York County between January 21, 1791 and April 10, 1797. Adam owned 251-3/4 acres in Windsor Township. They had eleven children, one of whom was also named Adam, who will be referred to as Adam NO.2 in this history. As near as can be ascertained, the Gohn family in Canada are descendants of Adam Gohn NO.1 and Adam Gohn NO.2, whom it is assumed is a son of Fielip (Philip) Gohn.

JOHANNES (JOHN) GOHN:

arrived in the United States aboard the ship called **The Thistle**, September 19, 1738. He died in York County, Pennsylvania, before December 19, 1769. He married Anna Rosina Cramtzdorf about 1738. He owned 133-7/8 acres and 116-3/4 acres in York County, Pennsylvania. They had ten children. He is assumed to be a son of Philip.

The Gohns settled in Pennsylvania beyond the Susquehanna River near other German speaking neighbours they had known in the Old Country. At that time there were no organized counties west of the Susquehanna, so when they first settled they were technically in Lancaster County until the formation of York County

in 1749.

Children of the immigrant Gohns all remained in York County until the close of the Revolutionary War. Their residences and properties are clearly discernable in the township tax lists published in the **Pennsylvania Archives**, Volume 3, Volume 21, as well as in the long lists of militia published in Series 6, Volume 2. At the close of the Revolution there was a considerable migration out of York County into western Pennsylvania. Before 1800, several of Adam Gohn's children disappeared from the York County records. They probably moved to Somerset County, Pennsylvania. During a visit to Jennerstown, which is a small country town in the western section of Pennsylvania in 1982, information was obtained from Homer Gohn, who is a grandson of John A. Gohn, whom we visited in 1937. He stated that the probable reason for the Gohn family locating in that area was the fact that Highway NO.30 leading from the eastern part of Pennsylvania was one of the first roads built in the State. Another reason was that the land was very arable and suitable for farming purposes.

ADAM GOHN NO.2:

was born about 1739, son of Adam NO.1 and Catherine. Little is known of his early life, except that he was a private soldier in the York County Militia. A record of his military career can be found in the Pennsylvania Archives. It was evident that he migrated with his two brothers, John and Peter, to Somerset County. Their names had appeared in the taxation records of Somerset County. Their names were also spelled as "COAN", "GOAN" and "GOHN" in the Somerset County Taxation Rolls, 1795-1879. From 1800-1810, Adam NO.2 is listed in the Quemahoning Township Tax records at various times as a farmer, a miller and as a blacksmith. He was recorded in the 1800 U.S. Census Report for Somerset County, Pennsylvania, as head of a household, over 45 years of age and his wife of like age. One son and two daughters, age 16-25 and two sons and one daughter, age 11-15. Only three sons have been identified, the daughters undoubtedly married and lost their identity as many records of that period were destroyed by fire. On May 2, 1791, Adam signed his mark to a deposition regarding his services at Camp Security during the Revolutionary War, the Pennsylvania Archives Ser. 6, 11 :727. This is the last record found in York County on Adam and his family. Adam died about 1811. His son, John, was the administrator of his estate dated November 18, 1811.

The following are the only known children of Adam Gohn No. 2:-

1. Adam Gohn No.3, born about 1781
2. John Gohn, born about 1783
3. David Gohn, born 1787

Letters in the writer's possession from John Gohn, Jenners Cross Roads, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, to his brother, David Gohn, who later emigrated to Upper Canada, dated October 21, 1849, mentions sisters in the family.

Oct. 31st 1849.
Jenner Township Somerset Co. Pa.

Dear Brother

I let you know by this letter that I and my family are all well at present and I hope that these lines may find you and your family enjoying the same blessing. I received your letter of the 14th of Oct on the 30th and I was engaged that you and your family was in good health. Dear brother I let you know that my wife and two of my children died. My wife, confined on the 24th of April and give birth to a fine young daughter and died on the 22nd of August. She was in the 46th year of her age the infant child Julian died on the 15th of September aged 4 months and 21 days on the 26 Sept. Lydia died aged 14 years and 17 days. My wife died with dropsy Julian died with Diarrhea Lydia died with sore throat. So Dear brother you may see that in 5 weeks time the mother and 2 children was gone to another better trust to a better world. There is 2 of my son Johns children died with sore throat 2 fine boys the one in his 10th year and the other in his 8th year, Josiah and Rebecca had the sore throat and a great many more.

I further I let you know that our sister Susana Miller died some time in August 1848 Cathrine Gauty and her daughter are well and all the rest of our friends as far as I know Mathias Reel and family they are well Jacob Reel is at home yet Sister Margaret lives still yet with me. The last account that I had of William Storm the war all well. We had all sorts of sickness in our section of country Colera morbus sore throat Diarrhea bilis and tifus fever and a great many Deaths Price of grain wheat \$1.00 per

(This page is not in the original book but is inserted here for easier reading)

Oct 30th 1849
Jenner Township Somerset Co. Pa.

Dear Brother

I let you know by this letter that I am my family we are all well at present and I hope that these lines may find you and your family enjoying the same blessing.

I received your letter of the 14th of Oct on the 30th and I was engaged that you and your family was in good health. Dear brother I let you know that my wife and two of my children died. My wife was confined on the 29th of April and give birth to a fine young daughter and died on the 22nd of August.

She was in the 46th year of her age the infant child Julian died on the 15th of September age 4 months and 21 days on the 26 Sept. Lydia died aged 14 years and 17 days.

My wife died with dropsy. Julian died with diarrhea. Lydia died with sore throat.

So dear brother you may see that in 5 weeks time the mother and 2 children was gone to another but trust to a better world.

There is 2 of my son Johns children died with sore throat. 2 fine boys the one in his 10th year, one the other in his 8th year, Josiah and Rebeca had the sore throat and a great many more.

Further I let you know that our sister Susana Miller died some time in August 1848. Cathrine Gauty and her daughter are well and all the rest of our friends as far as I know. Mathias Reel and family they are well. Jacob Reel is at home yet.

Sister Margaret lives yet with me. The last account that I have of William Storm they were all well. We had all sorts of sickness in our section of country. Colera morbus, sore throat, diarrhea --- and tifus fever and a great many deaths. Price of grain wheat \$1.00 per

Sent me an answer and direct your
~~letter to~~ letter to Gomer + Roads No
 Gomer Township Somerset Co Pa

(Letter from John Gohn, Jenner's Cross Roads, Pennsylvania, to his brother, David Gohn, dated October 31, 1849)

(This page is not in the original book but is inserted here for easier reading)

bushel Rye 50 cents Corn 50 cts Oats 30 cts to Potatoes 50 cts, butter 14 to 15 cts per pound, beef 4 cts, pork 5 cts per pound, eggs a --- per dozen. A good horse is worth from 75 to 100 dollars. Cattle \$10 to 14 dollars, sheep \$1.00 per head. The wheat crop was only a half crop. Rye--, Oats fairly good, Corn a light crop, --- on hay a good year, we had a very dry somer.

It snowed yesterday the snow is about 2 inches deep. I have 6 children at home yet my help I have strong help out on the farm but in the house my help is not so good. Rebeca will be 17 year old the 8th May in 1850 if she lives. George and Josiah the are older and Noah and Harrison the are younger, Sarah Jane is youngest. She is 7 year ---

John Gohn

Sent me an answer and direct your
letter to Jenner + Roads Pa
Jenner Township Somerset Co, Pa

