

PREFACE

The following pages are a reprint of the first few pages of the 1980 book “Gohn – Goan Descendants from Somerset County, Pennsylvania” by Fava E. Goan (1898-1988). The book outlines her research on the descendants of Philip Gohn (Abt 1680 - Abt 1744).

Fava passed away in 1988 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 - Goan lines and related families.

Fava Goan descended from:

- Philip Gohn (Abt 1680 – Abt 1744)
- Adam Gohn (Bet 1710 and 1718 – 1773)
- Peter Gohn (1753 – 1805)
- Peter Gohn II (1783 – 1825)
- Peter Gohn III (Abt 1804 – Unk)
- Samuel Goan (1830 – 1887)
- Frank Goan (1873 – 1962)

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.

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Gohn - Goan Descendants
from
Somerset County, Pennsylvania

by
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Anderson Graphics, Inc.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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DIRECTIONS FOR READING THIS GENEALOGY

This Family history has information on all of Adam Gohn's twelve children, but is mainly concerned with three sons: Adam, John, and Peter, who migrated to Somerset County, Pa. between 1796 and 1800.

The numbering of individuals and Family groups is as Follows:

(1) Philip Gohn

(1a) Adam Gohn I, b. ca. 1718.

(Father of the five sons listed below)

(1b) Adam Gohn II, b. ca. 1739.

(1c) Henry Gohn, b. ca. 1741.

(1d) John Gohn, b. ca. 1746.

(1e) Peter Gohn, b. 1753.

(1f) Philip Gohn, b. 14 Aug. 1757.

Each individual, about whose family a separate section is written, is prefaced by an Arabic numeral and letter. For example, near the bottom of page 7, the Arabic numeral and letter 3b prefaced the section on the family of John Gohn. The names in the parenthesis after his name refer to his ancestors. Note: John (4) Gohn (Adam II-3, Adam I-2, Philip-1). Explanation: Adam II-3 is John Gohn's father and the 3rd generation in the Family. Philip-1 is the first generation to arrive in the United States.

The children of John Gohn are listed by Roman numerals such as i, ii, iii, etc. Those children, about whose families more has been written, are prefaced by an Arabic numeral and letter in parenthesis. Thus, the first four children of John and Mary Gohn are listed in the following manner:

(5b) i Jacob Gohn

(6b) ii David Gohn

(7b) iii Michael Gohn

(8b) iv Edward Gohn

More has been written about these four in sections marked 5b, 6b, 7b, and 8b with the parenthesis removed.

The fifth child, Lydia, as no further information. Thus, she is listed:

v Lydia Gohn

The following abbreviations have been used to save space:

b.- born; bap.t.-baptized; bur.-buried;
ca.-about; cem.-cemetery; Co.-County;
d.-died; m.-married; Twp.-Township.

I realize that this family history is incomplete and that there may be errors. If you do note incorrect information, will you kindly write to me and include the correction. Thank you.

Fave E. Goan
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Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53213

(NOTE: This address is no longer valid)

Grateful acknowledgment is made to all the Gohn (Goan) cousins for their generous contributions of information and pictures of their families which have helped to make this volume possible.

Special mention should be made to Eleanora Miller For the use of her completed chart of the birth, marriage, and death records of her Grandmother, Elizabeth Jane (Goan) Miller family and descendants.

Our appreciation is also due to Larry Richardson, a descendant of John Gohn, who became interested in the Gohn family when very young. At the age of ten, Larry Found a box of Family letters which aroused his interest in the Philip Gohn Family for the remainder of his life. He not only collected the records of the John Gohn family, but of the Adam Gohn descendants. Therefore, when Leo M. Kendall sent him letters and records of the Henry Gohn family, Larry combined them with his records and forwarded them to me to use in this Family history.

My appreciation to my sister, Lois E. Goan, for her help in research and to my brother-in-law, Thoburn Ralph, for proof reading the manuscript and assisting in the preparation for publication. Also to Frances D. McTeer for the Adam Gohn records from her files.

Lastly, grateful acknowledgment is made to the following libraries for their assistance: Newberry Library, Chicago; Genealogical Society Library, Salt Lake City, Utah; and Milwaukee County Federated Library System, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

In June, 1979, Frances McTeer completed the following book on the Family history of the John Coon-Gohn descendants:

McTeer, Frances Davis, Coon-Gohn Descendants From Chanceford Township, York County, Pa., 278 pages and index. Price, \$16.50 postpaid.

Order from:

Mrs. Wilson McTeer
1712 Cherrywood Drive
Holiday, Florida 33590

Summer address:

Mrs. Wilson McTeer
Box 302
Port Austin, Michigan 48456

1 Philip Gohn came to the United States from Rimschweiler, Zweibrucken, in the Palatinate, Germany; died before 1746 in Windsor Township, York County, Pennsylvania.

It is uncertain whether Philip Gohn and members of his family were born in Rimschweiler or had lived in that area for only a short time. But according to Ralph B. Strassburger and W. J. Hinke, in Pennsylvania German Pioneers, 1:221, 1934, the Philip Gohn family were among the Palatines who came to America on the ship The Thistle arriving at the Port of Philadelphia 19 Sept. 1738.

There has been some uncertainty about the relationship of Philip (Fielip), Adam and John Gohn. Were they brothers or were the latter two sons of Philip? On file in the Court House of Philadelphia is "the sworn statement of John Wilson, Commander, that the above is a true and complete list of the males above 16 years of age imported on the ship The Thistle." The following names were among those on the list: Adam Gohn, Johannes [H] Gohn, and Fielip Gohn. Since Adam and John Gohn were included on the passenger list, it is obvious that they were over 16 years of age.

The Pennsylvania German Folklore Society, Yearbook, 1:122, lists the immigrants from Rimschweiler, Zweibrucken in the Palatinate who departed on the ship The Thistle in 1738. Among those included were Conrad Dietz of Althornbach, Philipp Gohn of Rimschweiler and four others from the same place; all six leave with their wives and children for America. George Brahr of Rimschweiler leaves for America with his son-in-law, Philipp Gohn. Here Adam and John are grouped as children of Philipp. The name of Philip Gohn's first wife is unknown. His second marriage was to Marla Sophia Braher, daughter of George Braher, who came to America with his son-in-law on the ship, The Thistle in 1738. As the widow of Philip Gohn, Maria Sophia Gohn remarried about 1746 to Vitus Behner.

Children of Philip and - Gohn:

- (1a) i Adam Gohn, b. ca. 1718.
- ii John Gohn, b. ca. 1720. He came to the United States with his parents on the ship The Thistle 19 Sept. 1738. Since two or more of John's descendants are working on their family history, the present volume will be a record of the descendants of Adam's twelve children but chiefly of the three sons, Adam Jr., John and Peter, who left York Co., Pa., about 1800 and migrated to Somerset Co., Pa.

Children of Philip and Maria Sophia (Braher) Gohn. All bapt. at the Christ Lutheran Church, York, Pa.:

- iii Philip Gohn, Jr., b. 13 Oct. 1739; bapt 14 Nov. 1739; sponsors, Michael Rausch and Susan Kruger; m. (1) Elizabeth Dellinger, b. ca. 1745; m. (2) Elizabeth Oberdorff.
- iv Catherine Elizabeth Gohn, b. 16 Nov. 1741; sponsors, Conrad Dietz and wife. Conrad Dietz and wife came to America on the ship The Thistle with the Philip Gohn family. His wife was a sister or Philip's wife, Maria Sophia (Braher) Gohn.
- v Catharina Elizabeth Gohn, b. 16 Sept. 1744; sponsors, Adam Gohn and wife Maria Catharina and Anna Elizabeth Rausch.

Children of Vitus and Maria Sophia (Braher) (Gohn) Behner. (All bapt. at the Conejohé Church, Lower Windsor Twp., York Co., Pa.:

- i Maria Elizabeth Behner, b. 30 Oct. 17**
- ii Maria Sophia Behner; b. 18 Jan. 1750.
- iii Johann George Behner, b. 5 May 1753.

Adam (2) Gohn (Philip-1), b. in Germany. Lived for some years in Rimschweiler, Zweibrucken, in the Palatinate, Germany; d. before the 16 Nov. 1773; m. Maria Catharine; d. before 21 Jan. 1791, Windsor Twp., York Co., Pa.

As previously stated, it is unknown whether Philip was the father or brother of Adam and John. Since most of the records of that area were destroyed during World War II, it is doubtful whether accurate records can be obtained. Adam is placed here as the son of Philip. The list of emigrants from Rimschweiler, on the ship The Thistle, Pennsylvania Folklore Society, 1:22, includes Philip Gohn alone, but all three, Philip, Adam and Johannes appear on the passenger list of The Thistle arriving in Philadelphia 19 Sept. 1738. Pennsylvania German Pioneers, 1934, by Ralph S. Strassburger and J. J. Hinke, 1:221.

In York County Adam Gohn lived in Windsor Twp. where he had a considerable plantation; he was a member of Canadochly Church and an overseer of the Township in 1759 and 1760. According to the Miscellaneous Land Papers in the possession of the Historical Society of York Co. (No. 12784), an additional tract in Chance ford Township named "Deerfield" was surveyed in November 1768 for Adam Gohn (no acreage or location in the record is given).

The will of Adam Gohn, Yoeman, Windsor Twp., dated 30 May 1766, probated 16 Nov. 1773, mentions his wife, Catherine and children Adam, Henry, Sophia, Catherine, John, Elizabeth, Mary, Magdalena, Peter, Margaret, and Philip. Executors: Wife Catherine and son Henry (York Co., Penna., Will Book 0: 189). On 25 March 1775 the estate of Adam Gohn showed a balance of (80.0.0½). There is no later record of distribution. (York Co., Penn., Administration Accounts).

According to the 1783 list of taxables for Windsor Twp., the Widow Gohn had 250 acres of land there, a house, two outhouses and three inhabitants (probably besides herself, the two unmarried daughters). In the 1790 Census

she is listed in York Twp., with a household of three females. But Catherine was probably dead by 21 Jan. 1791, when her daughter Sophia deeded away her share of her father's plantation held subject to her mother's life interest.

All of Adam Gohn's eleven surviving children seem to have remained in York Co. until the end of the Revolutionary War. Sons Adam, Henry and Philip are clearly discernable in the 1790 Census. But only Philip's family can be traced in the later York Co. records. Adam's daughter, Sophia, moved to Virginia before 1791; perhaps some of her brothers went in that direction, also.

The names of Adam, John and Peter Coan appear on the 1800 Quemahoning Somerset Co., Pennsylvania Taxation Assessment Roll, 1795-1817. They were also included in the 1800 Quemahoning census. Their descendants say these men came from York Co., Pa., where they fought in the Revolutionary War.

Children of Adam and Maria Catherine Gohn:

(lb) i Adam Gohn II, b. ca. 1739.

(lc) ii Henry (Henrich) Gohn, b. ca. 1741.

iii Sophia Gohn (Maria Sophia Kuhn), b. 26 May 1743; bapt. 18 Sept. 1743; parents Adam Kuhn and wife; sponsors, Philip and Maria Sophia Kuhn at Christ Lutheran Church, York, Pa.; m. Conrad Lear. According to the Deed Book v. 20, p. 374, York Co. Pa., Sophia and her husband, Conrad Lear, lived in Shenandoah, Va. in 1791. "On the 21 Jan. 1791, Conrad Lear and Sophia, his wife (late Sophia Gohn) of the County of Shenandoah, Virginia, the said Sophia being a daughter heir and devises" of Adam Gohn, late of Windsor Township, York Co., Pa. Deceased: "(paid to) Jacob K. Kauffelt of Windsor Twp.:...all the grantors share in a certain plantation and tract of land in

Windsor Twp. whereof the said Adam Gohn died siezed; after the decease of Catherine Gohn, widow and relict of the said. Adam, deceased."

iv Maria Catharine Gohn, b. ca. 1744 in Windsor Twp. York Co, Pa., m. Michael Albright, Jr. Catharine and her daughter, Rebecca, were mentioned in her sister Margaret's Will.

(ld) v John Gohn, b. ca. 1746.

vi Elizabeth Gohn, b. 1748, Windsor Twp., York Co., Pa. She and a daughter, Marcrate, were mentioned in her sister Margaret's Will.

vii Anna Mary Gohn, b. ca. 1750; mentioned in her sister Margaret's Will.

viii Mary Magdalena Gohn, b. 2 Oct. 1751, bapt. 18 May 1752 in the Christ Lutheran Church, York Co., Pa.; sponsors, Jacob Fackler and wife and Mary Magdalena; m. -- Neaf. Mary Magdalena and their three children, Jacob, Abraham, and Rebecca Neaf, were mentioned in her sister's Will.

(le) ix Peter Gohn (Goan, Coan) , b. 1753.

x Maria Barbara Gohn, b. 17 Sept. 1754; bapt. 16 Mar. 1755 in the Conejohela Church in Lower Windsor Twp.; sponsors, Maria Barbara Schmelzer, Veit Behner and his wife; parents, Adam and Maria Catharina Gohn. Maria Barbara was not mentioned in her Father's or her sister's Will. Therefore, her death must have occurred before 1766.

xi Maria Margaretha Gohn, b. 24 May 1756; bapt. 22 June 1756 at the Conejohela Church in Lower Windsor Twp., York Co., Pa.; sponsors, Maria Sophia Behner, Ludwig Meyer and his wife Margaretha. Her death evidently occurred in 1787 as

