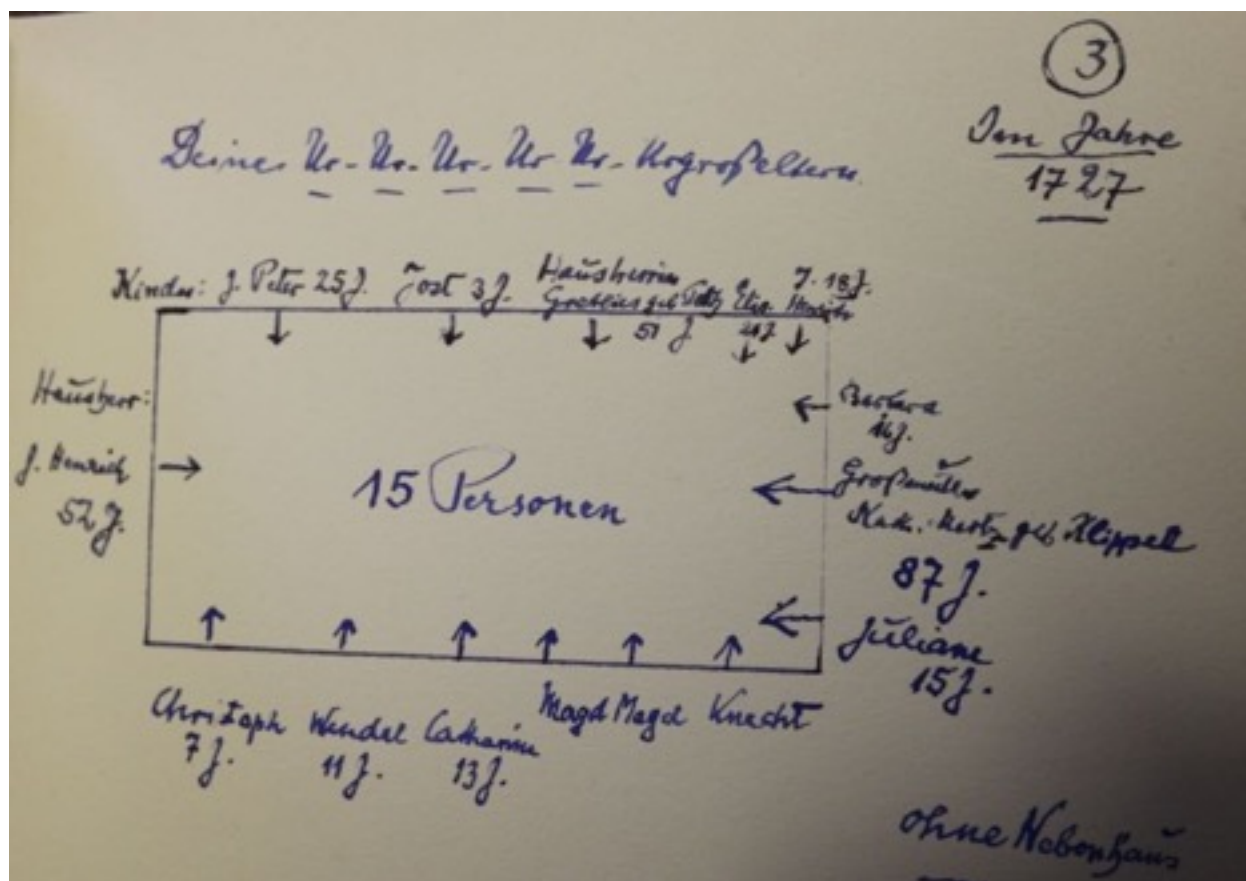


## EASTER SUNDAY 1727, MERTZ FARMHOUSE, FRANKENHAUSEN, GERMANY

Nathan Martz, who grew up in Martzville, Columbia County, PA, traveled to Frankenhäusen, Germany in early 2016 specifically to meet his cousins and see first-hand his ancestral homeland. Nathan descends from William Mertz, grandson, I believe, of John Henry Mertz who was born in Frankenhäusen in 1709 and emigrated from there to Berks County, PA in 1737.

Nathan learned of a tradition in the Mertz family of Frankenhäusen that on every Easter Sunday from 1727 onward, a sketch was created to preserve the names of the family members seated at the dining table for Easter dinner. He made a photographic copy of the sketch from 1727.



At the head (left side) of the table sat J(ohann) Heinrich age 52. His wife Gretlies geb (born) Poth age 51 sits in the middle along the top side of the table surrounded by these "kinder": J Peter 25 (the oldest son who would inherit the farm), Jost 3 (who would emigrate 21 years later), Elizabeth 21 and down at the far end 18 year old J Heinrich (who would emigrate 10 years later). Opposite J(ohann) Heinrich at the right end of the table is his mother, Kath Mertz geb (born) Klippel age 87 with Barbara 16 on one side of her and Juliana 15 on the other. Three more children Christoph 7, Wendell 11 and Catharina 13 sit along the bottom side of the table with three additional people whose relationship to the family is unknown to me..

Notably absent is son John George who supposedly also emigrated. He would have been 19 so I don't think he had already emigrated, I don't know why he was absent..