**TRACKING THE SERVOS FAMILY**

**When and Where Its Members Appearedin the Charlotte Valley**

The following information about the Servos family appears in different sources that are often incomplete and contradictory. Some statements of detail are reasonable assumptions or tentative conclusions that require further verification. [*A Bicentennial History of the Town of Worcester*, p. 6]

"Christopher Servos, born at Alt Wied [in the German Palatinate] about 1670 ... served in the army thirty-nine years and nine months ... and determined to emigrate to one of the English colonies of North America. ... Prince Frederick William of Wied ... gave him ... a large letter of introduction and recommendation to the Governors of New York and Pennsylvania ... In the summer of 1726, Christopher Servos with his family ... landed at New York. ... presenting his letter to Governor Burnet [of New York] ... Whether he obtained from the Governor a grant of lands, or whether he purchased lands, is not now known, but he presently acquired possession of a large tract on the Charlotte River, near Schoharie ... and settled there with his sons. ...

The Servos settlement on the Charlotte was one of the landmarks on the frontier ... Old Christopher died at a very advanced age, but in what year is not known. ... The ... acknowledged head of the family [then became his son Christopher the younger, also called Thomas], a man of large property and great business on the Charlotte River who had four sons living with him at home .."

[*Memorials of the Servos Famil*y, 1883]

The older Christopher "appears as a freeholder in Ulster County, New York, in 1728, and probably moved soon after to New Jersey." Younger Christopher married Anna Clara Crief in New Jersey in 1738. Their daughter Catrina was born in Middlesex County, New Jersey in 1744. [Marian Banker notes]

"[Stephen W.] Mabie ... writes that 'No Servoss family member owned land on the Charlotte River before 1750.' This may be technically correct but it does not change the fact that on a 1750 map of the area a Servoss is shown as living in the area. Local Historian Howson Hartley firmly believes that [old] Christopher Servos settled in the Charlotte Valley in what is now South Worcester, NY, 'about 1740,' and that [young] Christopher Servos' third child, Lt. Daniel Servos is reported to have been born there in 1738. His sixth child, Lt. Jacob Servos, is also reported to have been born there 'about 1751.' ... The ... 1740 holding there could (but not necessarily 'would') have been a part of [the] later 1500 acres [formally acquired in 1770] ..." [Alan Strout, September, 2012]

Old Christopher Servos "died in the Colonies, probably New York, possibly at the Servos Settlement (Farm) on the Charlotte River in 1745." [*The Ancestors of Frank Arnott Serviss*]

"the said John Servos, was born at Johnstown in [Tryon County] on the 25 day of December 1760 that he moved from there to Charlotte River now Otsego County ... where he resided until the year 1778 when he removed to the town of Florida ..." [Pension affidavit, 1832] .

"On 10 March 1761 Christopher Servis, Peter Servis, and 24 others submitted a petition to the New York Colonial Assembly for an Act for their Naturalization. At this time Christopher and his brother Peter were living in what was then called 'Kings Borough,' on land adjacent to 50 acres granted by Sir William Johnson for use of the church ... The 'Mohawk District Tax List' for January/February 1766 includes [their] names. ... In 1769, four children of Christopher were included in a list of scholars at the Free School at Johnstown ..." [*Family History of Christopher Servoss of Tryon County, New York*] Christopher's son Philip was born in Glen, New York in 1767. [Marian Banker notes]

"...I will give you Two Hundred Pounds in money, and Fifteen Hundred Acres of Land on both sides of the Adagaghtinge [Charlotte] Creek ... For which you will give me your Right Title & Improvements where you now live ... I can hardly entertain the least doubt of your disliking my proposal when you consider the difference between 1500 Acres for your Family & that of 150, besides the £200 in Cash ..." [Letter from Sir William Johnson to Christopher Servos, May 16, 1770]

Leading up to the Revolution, the Servos family was loyal to the King, gave shelter and supplies to Loyalist forces, and "were obnoxious to a high degree to the Whig committees of the Schoharie Country. ... [who] called upon General Washington to furnish a military force to aid in subduing the loyalist population of the Charlotte."

In June,1778, an "expedition [including Timothy Murphy] sent to arrest [the second Christopher] surrounded his house. .. he broke away and took up an ax ... when he was instantly shot ... and fell dead ... Servos was buried in the family ground. The boys [Daniel and Jacob] placed their mother and the wife and [4-year-old daughter Magdalena] of Daniel with relations ... and made their way to Niagara to join [Tory] regiments ... After the peace ... Daniel ... returned to bring back his little daughter [and try to] recover his estates ..." [*Memorials of the Servos Family*]

"I ... immediately sent out a Subaltern with a small Scout to reconnoitre the Country ... This party shot 'one Services' [Christopher Servos], a Noted Villain who had Constantly supply'd the Enemy ..." [Letter from Lt. Col. William Butler to George Washington, August 13, 1778]

"During the Revolution Christian [another son of Christopher] remained with his mother in New York" Son Richard became a private in the 3rd Tryon County [Patriot] Regiment. [Marian Banker]

"About the grave [of Christopher Servos], I think it was located on the farm next to the Multer-Hillis farm. In the 1940's it was owned by Carl Mitchell and was on the south side of the Center Valley road where it meets the Charlotteville-South Worcester Road. The grave was on the other side of the road, not where all the buildings are. It was between the Charlotteville-South Worcester Road and the Charlotte Creek. Probably beyond where Doug Hillis ... has his house. This section was plowed and I don't know what happened to the stone. ... Marion thought there used to be a fence there. I never walked down to it, but thought there were a couple of trees. It was unusual in that it was in the middle of a hayfield. I think while Carl Mitchell and George Bruce had the farm, they kept it as a gravesite.  
 [E-mails from Dorothy Hicock, September 23 and 25, 2004]

"His father [young Christopher] had 1,500 acres on Charlotte River. His father purchased it of Sir Wm. Johnson about the year 1770. The Deed is lost. He gave other Lands in exchange for it. It was uncultivated when he took it. About 90 acres clear, 2 Dwelling Houses, 2 Barns, 2 Mills, a Grist Mill & Saw Mill. A Large House for making Potash. Values the Farm at £3,000 York Currency including Buildings, the Mills & the Potash House. Values the 2 Mills at £700 which are included in the above Estimate. Values the Potash House at £120. This Estate has been sold. Part of it has not yet been sold. His mother has not been allowed anything for her Dower. None of the family are in Possession of any part of the Estate. His father lost a personal Estate consisting of 12 horses, 21 Head Cattle, 25 Sheep, 40 Hogs, furniture, Utensils for farming, Blacksmith & Weaver's tools, 3 large Kettles, utensils for Potash Work, Valued at £350 at the lowest. These Utensils were left on the Premises when they went away & sold by the Rebels. The Potash House & Works & all the Buildings were burnt by the Rebels." ["Loyalist Claim" by Daniel Servos, August 22, 1787]