

## *From Germany to Loudoun County Virginia and Beyond*

Like most of the Germans who settled in Loudoun County, Virginia the Virts' came by the way of Pennsylvania. The first Virts settlers in Loudoun County appear to be Wilhelm Wurtz and his family.

Wilhelm, his wife, Anna Catharina, sons: Wilhelm Jr., Peter Philip, Conrad, and daughter Maria Elisabeth arrived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on the boat Neptune on September 23, 1753. Wilhelm's journey appears to have originated in Tauberbischofsheim, Landkreis, Baden, Koenigsreich (Herzogsreich) Wuerttemberg (Deutschland).

They would have taken a boat down The Tauber, The Main, and Rhine rivers to Rotterdam, where the ship Neptune would have set sail for Philadelphia.

Both Wilhelm and Peter Wurtz names appear on the Captains list and Wilhelm and Wilhelm Wurtz, Jr. appear on the Signers of the Oath of Abjuration list.

It appears that Wilhelm may have spent the first few years in



America in the Lancaster, Lehigh Valley area of Pennsylvania and/or Maryland, because he does not appear in the Loudoun County, Virginia tax list until 1767, along with his son Conrad, and he was shown living in Lancaster when he was naturalized on April 10, 1761 in Philadelphia. Also Wilhelm and Wilhelm Jr. appear in the 1754 Pennsylvania Census as living in Philadelphia. By 1767 there was no trace of Wilhelm Wurtz, Jr.. His daughter Maria had married Michael (Laufer) Runner and was living in the Frederick, Maryland area. Son, Peter, who was naturalized in 1775 in New Jersey, appears to have spent a couple years in the Middletown, Maryland area for he does not appear in the Loudoun County tax list until 1788 and his son Jacob, born in 1760, was baptized in Middletown.

In 1772 Wilhelm leased 100 acres from Lord George William Fairfax in Loudoun County. Wilhelm and his children would remain in Loudoun County until their death were many of Wilhelm's descendants still live today. Some of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren did move to southern Virginia, Maryland, Missouri and Ohio and other points West.