

## *Ancestors of Matthas Holstein*

### *Generation No. 1*

**1. Matthas Holstein**<sup>1,2</sup>, born November 24, 1755 in West Philadelphia, PA<sup>3,4</sup>; died January 08, 1822 in New Alexandria, Westmoreland Co., PA<sup>5,6</sup>. He was the son of **2. Fredrick Holstein** and **3. Magaline Hulings**. He married **(1) Jane Johnson** November 24, 1789<sup>7</sup>. She was born 1764 in West Philadelphia, PA, and died 1834 in New Alexandria, Westmoreland Co., PA.

Notes for Matthas Holstein:

Married at Old Swedes Church, Upper Merion, PA - Seven children: Samuel Holstein; Rebecca Holstein, Andrew Holstein, Elizabeth Holstein, Abraham Holstein, Mary Holstein, Sarah Ann Holstein.

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### *Generation No. 2*

**2. Fredrick Holstein**<sup>7,8</sup>, born July 01, 1684 in Passyunk. He was the son of **4. Matthias "Matts" Classen Holstein** and **5. Britta Rambo**. He married **3. Magaline Hulings**.

**3. Magaline Hulings**<sup>9,10</sup>.

Notes for Fredrick Holstein:

Fredrick Holstein, was born in Passyunk on 13 Jan. 1684. Like his elder brothers Laurence and Matthias, he served on the Philadelphia County militia in 1704, at a time when there was concern about possible attacks by the French and Indians in the wake of the Deerfield Massacre in Massachusetts. He died unmarried in 1708, when his brother Laurence was appointed to administer his estate.

More About Fredrick Holstein:

Baptism: January 13, 1683/84, Old Swedes Church, Philadelphia, PA<sup>11</sup>

Notes (Facts Pg): Notes from Forefathers

Child of Fredrick Holstein and Magaline Hulings is:

- 1 i. Matthas Holstein, born November 24, 1755 in West Philadelphia, PA; died January 08, 1822 in New Alexandria, Westmoreland Co., PA; married Jane Johnson November 24, 1789.

### *Generation No. 3*

**4. Matthias "Matts" Classen Holstein**, born June 01, 1642 in Dithmarschen in Holstein.<sup>11</sup>; died April 09, 1708 in Pennsylvania<sup>11</sup>. He was the son of **8. Matths Hollsten** and **9. Brita Gostenburg Rambo**. He married **5. Britta Rambo** October 10, 1705<sup>12</sup>.

**5. Britta Rambo**<sup>12,13,14</sup>, born in Passyunk Twp, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania<sup>14</sup>; died 1758<sup>15,16</sup>. She was the daughter of **11. Anna Larson Cock**.

Notes for Matthias "Matts" Classen Holstein:

[108018.GED]

Matts Holstein, as the name was written in the earliest Swedish records, the ancestor of this long line of descendants was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1644, two years after the second emigration of Swedes to America. Who his parents are we have no means of knowing, but it has been a long family tradition that they came from Sweden with Governor Peter Minuit on the good ship "Kalmar Nykel" or "Key of Calmar."

In 1693, Matts Holstein was one of the Swedish congregation known as Wicaco, which is an Indian name meaning pleasant place.

In 1693, in the lists of heads of families sent at the request of King Charles XI of Sweden, is found Matts Holstein's name and those comprising his household, even their date of birth.

There is a family legend that the name Holstein descended through a noble line.

The Swedes of that time were a thrifty, industrious people, inclined to farming pursuits more than trade. We can imagine what Philadelphia was like in the 17th century, when our American ancestors of this ancient family were living on the banks of the Delaware, or dwelling peacefully upon their farms that are, at present, in the center of Philadelphia.

There are other records which show Matts as "Matthais Claesson Holstein", born in 1642 in Dittmarschen, Holstein, Sweden, and that he was the son of early Swedish Settlers. But since the record of Old Swedes Lutheran Church show him as being baptized there in 1642, I find the other records in doubt.

Excerpt from "BEAN'S HISTORY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, CHAPTER LXXVII, UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP, By Wm. J. Buck:

P. 1119

Upper and Lower Merion appear to have been originally one township called Merion, or rather by the early Welsh settlers Merioneth, after a county in North Wales. At what exact time it was divided has not been ascertained, but it must have been before 1714; for in this year we find the earliest mention in records of Upper Merion as a township. From Thomas Holme's map of original surveys, commenced in 1682, we learn that the upper half of the township was included in Letitia Penn's manor of Mount Joy, the middle portion in William Penn, Jr's., and the lower part, adjoining Lower Merion, in John Pennington and company's. The remaining portion of the manor lay in the adjoining township of Tredyffrin, in Chester County, and included in all seven thousand eight hundred acres. It was patented to his daughter by William Penn, 24th of Eighth Month, 1701, and he retained possession of it until 1736. The land belonging to John Pennington and company, it is probable, formed a part of the Welsh tract, which we know extended through a portion of the township into Chester County, comprising in the whole forty thousand acres, and of which mention was made in the history of Lower Merion. It was chiefly through this last great purchase that the original settlers were Welsh, and named it after a shire from whence many of them had come.

Although the Swedes had settled near the mouth of the Schuylkill in 1642, and four years later erected a church there, yet no evidence exists of their having located early anywhere within the present limits of the county. It has been recently ascertained that Peter Cox had made a purchase of land within the present limits of Upper Merion before 1702, and that Gunnar Rambo in said year had endeavored to secure a tract beside him. The Swedes came into the township about 1712, and settled on a large tract which they purchased from the Welsh, who had for some time preceded them. The names of these settlers were:

Mats Holstein  
Gunnar Rambo  
Peter Rambo  
Peter Yocum  
John Matson.

They took up several hundred acres each, which lay from the present borough of Bridgeport down to the Lower Merion line, and back nearly two miles from the river. This tract, for fertility, is almost unequalled in Pennsylvania, and is still chiefly in the hands of their descendants, and comprises nearly one-fourth of the present area of the township. On this tract the names of Swedes' Ford, Swedes' Church, Swedesburg, Swedeland and Matson's Ford sufficiently indicate the presence of these settlers. Near the close of this subject some additional information will be given respecting those Swedish families.

P. 1120

The following possesses interest, being a list of settlers residing in Upper Merion in 1734, thirty-two in number, and with the amount of land returned as belonging to each:

Mats Holstein, 252 acres

P. 1125

THE SWEDES IN UPPER MERION. -The credit is due to the Swedes of having made the first permanent settlement in Pennsylvania. In the fall of 1637 two vessels arrived from, Goettenburg, called the "Key of Calmar" and the "Bird Grip." A purchase was made by those colonists from the Indians the following year of the lands on the west side of the bay and river from Cape Henlopen to Santhicon, or the falls of the Delaware, which they called New Sweden. Tradition has it that the ancestors of the Rambos, Holsteins, Yocums and Matsons came in these vessels. After more arrivals, in February, 1643, Governor Printz, selected for settlement the low alluvial island in the Delaware, called Tinicum or Tinnekonk, situated below, but near the mouth of the Schuylkill. Here a settlement was made and a fort and a church built. Peter Lindstrom, the royal Swedish engineer, in 1654, made a map of New Sweden, on which the Schuylkill is denoted as far up as to Contain a Small part of the territory now comprised in Montgomery County. But no evidence, strange to say, exists of any early settlement or explorations up or along this river by the Swedes, even thirteen years after the arrival of Penn.

In 1708, Pastor Andreas Sandel wrote in his list of burials at Gloria Dei Church the following entry (as translated from the original Swedish): "9 April. Buried old Matths Hollsten, born in Dithmarschen in Holstein."

The man referred to was the founder of the Swedish Holstein family, which left an enduring mark among the Swedish churches at Wicaco, Upper Merion and Swedesboro and gave its name to the Holsten River in Tennessee, whose first inhabitant was Stephen Holstein, a grandson of the immigrant, Matthias Claesson from Dithmarschen in Holstein which then, as now, lies east of the Netherlands on the North Sea.

Matthias Claesson was one of several Holsteiners who ended up as husbands of Swedish wives. Others with similar stories were Marcus Laurensen (progenitor of the Hulings family) and Otto Ernest Koch (progenitor of one of the Swedish Cox families).

In 1893, Mrs. Anna M. Holstein of Upper Merion, Montgomery County, PA, wrote a book entitled Swedish Holsteins in America from 1644 to 1892, one of the first genealogies to explore the families of the 17th century Swedes. In this book, she claimed that Matthias Holstein had been born in New Sweden in 1644 and that his father (name unknown) had arrived in New Sweden with Governor Peter Minuit in 1638. She was wrong on all counts.

From a special census taken in 1683 and from pastor Rudman's 1697 church census, we know that Matthias Holstein was born in 1642. From Sandel's burial record, we know that he came from Dithmarschen in Holstein. He was 21 years old in 1663 when he answered the pleas of the New Amstel colony for young farmers willing to go to the South (Delaware) River. Having taken over the former colony of New Sweden from the Dutch West India Company, the sponsors were anxious to recruit new farmers from outside of the country to better exploit the potential of their endeavor.

Shortly after Matthias Claesson's arrival on the Delaware, the New Amstel colony was taken over by the English. The local population, however, was still primarily Swedish. Matthias Claesson, now known as Matthias Holstein, found employment in Kingsessing and in 1671 was residing at Sayamensing Island on the west side of the Schuylkill River on land owned by Lasse Cock, eldest son of Peter Larsson Cock. Soon thereafter Matthias Holstein married Lasse Cock's eldest sister, probably named Helena Cock. With the aid of Lasse Cock, Matthias acquired land in Passyunk, on the east side of the Schuylkill from Peter Mattson, who (in an apparent exchange) acquired Sayamensing Island from Lasse Cock.

It is probable that Matthias Holstein married Lasse Cock's sister by 1672. He acquired his Passyunk property on 5 May 1672 and remained there until his death in 1708. Throughout this time, he was a staunch supporter of the Swedish church at Wicaco, serving briefly as a church warden and contributing £ 7 toward the building of the new church in 1698-1700.

In 1684, however, Matthias Holstein became a widower, with four small boys to raise. He hired as his housekeeper Catharina from the Crane Hook congregation, whose father Måns Pålsson had died in 1682. Later, in 1688, he married Catharina Månsdotter and had two more sons and a daughter by this marriage.

Before his death, Matthias Holstein gave most of his lands to his sons Laurence and Matthias. In his will, he made

bequests to his other four sons and designated his wife Catharine to be the executrix, "desiring my friends William Carter and Peter Mounts [his wife's brother] to be assistants to my said executrix."

Six children (all males) were listed in the will of Matthias Holstein dated 14 December 1706:

More About Matthias "Matts" Classen Holstein:

Aka:: Matts Clawson

Moved: 1663, At 21 y Moved to S Delaware River Colony

Notes (Facts Pg): 1684, Hired Catharna as housekeeper

Notes for Britta Rambo:

Notes concerning Matthias from Rob Beatty: Matthias was born at Passyunk, County of MatthiasClaessen, Alias Holstein and his first wife whose name is not known, incorrectly identified as Britta Gostenburg--from papers of Dr. Craig. Matthias Holstein`s will was signed on March 17, 1736/37 and prove don May 11, 1737. The will names his wife and his four sons: Matthias, 3rd; Andrew, John, and Frederick. For a detailed accounting of Mathias`s land holdings, see Ron Beatty`s book.

Sources for RAMBO & HOLSTEIN: (1) Abbrev: Ron Beatty; Title: Ron S. Beatty. For detailed information on this family, see Ron Beatty`s new edition of Beverly Rambo`s RAMBO FAMILY TREE. (2) Abbrev: RAMBO FAMILY TREE by Rambo.; Title: THE RAMBO FAMILY TREE: DESCENDANTS OF PETER GUNNARSON RAMBO, 1611-1986; Author: Beverly Nelson Rambo; Publication: Decorah, Iowa: The Anundesen Publishing Company, 1986; Text: Very extensive bibliography.

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Matthias and Brita Holstein had 12 children, the first three of whom died in infancy:

Peter, born in 1706; Infant

Fredrick, born in 1709; Infant

Brita, born in 1711; Infant

Catharina, born c. 1713;

Debora, born 5 Sept. 1714;

Andrew, born 15 April 1716;

Matthias, born 2 Dec. 1717;

Maria, born 23 April 1720;

Brita, born c. 1722;

John, born 26 March 1724;

Elisabeth, born c. 1726; and

Fredrick, born 11 Feb. 1728.

More About Britta Rambo:

Baptism: 1685, Old Swedes Church, Philadelphia, PA<sup>17</sup>

Children of Matthias Holstein and Britta Rambo are:

- i. Lawrence Holstein<sup>18,19</sup>, born September 15, 1677 in Ireland<sup>20,21</sup>; died in Philadelphia, PA<sup>22,23</sup>; married Elizabeth Smithe<sup>24</sup>; born 1673 in Ireland<sup>24,25</sup>.
- ii. Matthias Holstein, Jr.<sup>26,27,28</sup>, born July 01, 1681 in Passyunk Moyamensing, Phila, Pennsylvania<sup>29,30,31</sup>; died 1737 in Matsunk Swedesford, Upper Merion Twp., Pennsylv<sup>32,33</sup>; Stepchild; married Britta Rambo October 10, 1705 in Old Swedes Church, Upper Merion, PA<sup>34</sup>; born in Passyunk Twp, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania<sup>34</sup>; died 1758<sup>35,36</sup>.

Notes for Matthias Holstein, Jr.:

Matthias II moved to Upper Merion with his wife, and purchased 1,000 acres of land, beginning at the Schuylkill River, comprising what is now the borough of Bridgeport and extending one and one half

miles west to the top of Red Hill. The oldest deed in the possession of the family for this tract of land is dated 1708.

Matthias II resided for a time at Swedesford, and in 1714 built a stone house upon his farm, one and one half miles from the river, on Spring Creek.

The Swedish settlers of that day invariably chose the site for their dwellings near springs and streams of water. In that dwelling, as it is descended from father to son, four generations were born, children, grand-children, great grand children and great, great grand children.

The house still stand in good condition, though it has been added to and enlarged many times.

The large stone barn which Matthias built at the same time was considered a remarkable one, people coming from long distance to examine it. Prior to and during the building of Christ's Swedish Church, services were held in the barn, as the threshing floor would accommodate all of the community. During the last few years, this old barn was torn down to make room for a still larger one. This property was last known to be in the possession of William P. Davenport of Bridgeport, Pennsylvania.

There is possibly a notation or mention of Matthias II The Genealogical Magazine in an article about Captain John Finney's Co. of Philadelphia Militia of 1704 (1990 -3 Page 174).

The following land record was found:

Landholders of Philadelphia County, 1734

A List of the Names of the Inhabitants of the County of Philadelphia, with the quantity of Land they respectively hold therein, according to the uncertain Returns of the Constables.

Anno Dom: 1734

UPR. MIRIAN

Mathias Holstein.....252

From The Record of the Harris Family:

"The house was situated on the south side of the Old Provincial road, one of the oldest highways in the country, which ran from Philadelphia to Lancaster. It was and is still ordinarily called the "Swedes Ford" road, but the road to which that name should be confined was built in 1724 westward from a ford on the Schuylkill river near Bridgeport, at which point a Swede named Mats Holstein had settled in 1712, to an intersection with the Old Provincial road, about a mile east of the Harris farm, where it ended."

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The following possesses interest, being a list of settlers residing in Upper Merion in 1734, thirty-two in number, and with the amount of land returned as belonging to each:

Mats Holstein, 252 acres

September 20, 2001 - The IMAGE shown here is information obtained from SW Craig (Ward) about the Holstein family name and some of its origins. September 20, 2001 - The IMAGE shown here is the data under NOTES: on the file for Matthias Holstein II, b. 1 Jul 1681; D: 1737. Born in Moyamensing, Phila, Pennsylvania, Died at Swedesford, Upper Merion Twp. PA It is fascinating reading. [This document is here exactly as it came to me on-line. Marriage Date: 10 OCT 1705 Marriage Place: Old Swedes Church, Upper Merion, PA Matthias II moved to Upper Merion with his wife, and purchased 1,000 acres of land and produced 12 children: Bridgitta, Frederick, Brita, Elizabeth, Catherine, Debora, Andrew, Matthias Holstein III, Mary Jane, John, Frederick Holstein II & Elizabeth Holstein. He had three brothers: Laurence, Andrew & Frederick Holstein. See data NOTES & SOURCES attached in Photo Alb. under Matthias Holstein, II.

Matthias Holstein, Jr., born 1 July 1681 at Passyunk, was married on 10 October 1705 to his first cousin, Brita Rambo, daughter of Gunnar Rambo and Anna Cock. He was a warden and vestryman for Gloria Dei Church from 1707 to 1709, but soon moved to Matsunk (the Swedes' tract in Upper Merion Township in present Montgomery County), where he established a large farm in the vicinity of present Bridgeport. He was also active politically and was five times elected to the Pennsylvania Assembly (in 1718 and from 1722 to 1725). He died at Matsunk shortly before 11 May 1737, when his will was proved. His widow Brita died in 1758.

Matthias and Brita Holstein had 12 children, the first three of whom died in infancy: Peter, born in 1706; Fredrick, born in 1709; Brita, born in 1711; Catharina, born c. 1713; Debora, born 5 Sept. 1714; Andrew, born 15 April 1716; Matthias, born 2 Dec. 1717; Maria, born 23 April 1720; Brita, born c. 1722; John, born 26 March 1724; Elisabeth, born c. 1726; and Fredrick, born 11 Feb. 1728.

More About Matthias Holstein, Jr.:

Baptism: July 01, 1681, Old Swedes Church, Philadelphia, PA<sup>37</sup>

Notes for Britta Rambo:

Notes concerning Matthias from Rob Beatty: Matthias was born at Passyunk, County of MatthiasClaessen, Alias Holstein and his first wife whose name is not known, incorrectly identified as Britta Gostenburg--from papers of Dr. Craig. Matthias Holstein's will was signed on March 17, 1736/37 and proved on May 11, 1737. The will names his wife and his four sons: Matthias, 3rd; Andrew, John, and Frederick. For a detailed accounting of Matthias's land holdings, see Ron Beatty's book.

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Matthias, born 2 Dec. 1717;  
Maria, born 23 April 1720;  
Brita, born c. 1722;  
John, born 26 March 1724;  
Elisabeth, born c. 1726; and  
Fredrick, born 11 Feb. 1728.

More About Britta Rambo:  
Baptism: 1685, Old Swedes Church, Philadelphia, PA<sup>37</sup>

- iii. Andrew Holstein<sup>37</sup>, born January 19, 1678/79 in Passyunk Co., Philadelphia, Pa; died 1718 in Talbot County; married Frances Davis 1704 in Talbot County.

Notes for Andrew Holstein:

Andrew Holstein, born 19 Jan. 1679, had left home by 1704 to try his luck elsewhere. By 1715 he was a resident of Talbot County, where he married Frances, the daughter of Captain John Davis of St. Michaels River. He died in 1718 and his estate was administered by his widow and her second husband, William Elbert. Andrew had no known surviving children.

More About Andrew Holstein:  
Baptism: January 19, 1679, Old Swedes Church, Philadelphia, PA<sup>37</sup>  
Notes (Facts Pg): Left Home 1704

- 2 iv. Fredrick Holstein, born July 01, 1684 in Passyunk; married Magaline Hulings.  
v. Peter Holstein, born January 16, 1690/91.

Notes for Peter Holstein:

Peter Holstein, born 16 Jan. 1691, was apparently hired by his uncle, Peter Månsson (Mounts), to manage a farm which he had purchased in 1709 on Drawyers Creek in St. Georges Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. By 1722, Peter Holstein married Sara Peirce, daughter of John Peirce. Their daughter Maria, two months old, was baptized by pastor Andreas Hesselius of Holy Trinity (Old Swedes') Church on 21 July 1723. Peter Holstein disappears from New Castle County records after December 1728. It is presumed that he died of smallpox, which was of epidemic proportions in 1728-1729 and killed a large number of his Månsson cousins.

More About Peter Holstein:  
Notes (Facts Pg): March 22, 2002

- vi. Henry Holstein, born March 29, 1694 in Passyunk, Philadelphia, Pa.; died Aft. 1754 in Craig's Creek, Botetourt Co., VA; married Evans; born in Radnor, PA.

More About Henry Holstein:  
Burial: Botetourt Co., VA

*Generation No. 4*

**8. Matths Hollsten**, born June 01, 1644 in Dithmarschen in Holstein.; died April 09, 1708 in Dithmarschen in Holstein.. He married **9. Brita Gostenburg Rambo** 1776.

**9. Brita Gostenburg Rambo**

More About Matths Hollsten:

Burial: Gloria Dei Church

Child of Matths Hollsten and Brita Rambo is:

- 4 i. Matthias "Matts" Classen Holstein, born June 01, 1642 in Dithmarschen in Holstein.; died April 09, 1708 in Pennsylvania; married (1) Helena Cock 1672 in Passyunk; married (2) Catharina Mansdotter 1688; married (3) Britta Rambo October 10, 1705.

**11. Anna Larson Cock**<sup>38,39</sup>, born in New Sweden<sup>40,41</sup>. She was the daughter of Peter Larsson Cock and Margaret Lorm.

Child of Anna Larson Cock is:

- 5 i. Britta Rambo, born in Passyunk Twp, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; died 1758; married (1) Matthias Holstein, Jr. October 10, 1705 in Old Swedes Church, Upper Merion, PA; married (2) Matthias "Matts" Classen Holstein October 10, 1705.

Child of Anna Cock and Peter Rambo is:

*Endnotes*

1. .., Date of Import: Nov 30, 2001.
2. .., Date of Import: Dec 23, 2001.
3. .., Date of Import: Nov 30, 2001.
4. .., Date of Import: Dec 23, 2001.
5. .., Date of Import: Nov 30, 2001.
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11. 108018.GED, Date of Import: Dec 22, 2001.
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26. .., Date of Import: Nov 30, 2001.
27. 108018.GED, Date of Import: Dec 22, 2001.
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29. .., Date of Import: Nov 30, 2001.
30. 108018.GED, Date of Import: Dec 22, 2001.
31. .., Date of Import: Dec 23, 2001.
32. .., Date of Import: Nov 30, 2001.
33. .., Date of Import: Dec 23, 2001.
34. 108018.GED, Date of Import: Dec 22, 2001.
35. .., Date of Import: Nov 30, 2001.
36. .., Date of Import: Dec 23, 2001.

37. 108018.GED, Date of Import: Dec 22, 2001.
38. ., Date of Import: Nov 30, 2001.
39. ., Date of Import: Dec 23, 2001.
40. ., Date of Import: Nov 30, 2001.
41. ., Date of Import: Dec 23, 2001.