

Addendum to Appendix 17 of  
*The Garn Family*  
*including Carn, Garnes, Garns and Gern*

by

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In this article we provide additional evidence that supports some of the conclusions presented in our book, *The Garn Family including Carn Garnes, Garns and Gern*.<sup>[1]</sup> This new evidence was not available when the book was published in November last year. The evidence supports our conclusion that Christina Gern, person #26 in the book, was the daughter of Conrad Gern, person #10. It also provides additional evidence to prove that Jacob Garn, person #27, was a brother of Christina and therefore also a son of Conrad Gern. Finally, it provides evidence that supports our conclusion that Conrad Gern's family attended the Grindstone Hill or Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guilford Twp., Franklin Co., Pennsylvania. We discuss each of these conclusions separately below.

In Appendix 17 of our book the evidence for placing Christina as the daughter of Conrad Gern was a letter written by Christina's husband John Kahl to Samuel Garns, person #28, in which John Kahl starts the letter with the salutation, "Dear Brotherinlaw" [sic]. We also cited a report prepared by Charlotte Kahl, which indicated that she had a baptismal certificate for Jonathan Kahl, person #91, which reported he was the son of John Kahl and Christina Gern. Charlotte Kahl is the wife of Paul Conrad Kahl, who is the son of Paul Luther Kahl, who was the son of Elmer Kahl, who appears as person #405 in the book. And Elmer was a son of Jonathan Kahl, person #91. Our conclusion was that the John Kahl letter together with the baptismal certificate proved that Christina was a sister of Samuel Garns and therefore a daughter of Conrad Gern.

After the book was printed, Charlotte Kahl and her granddaughter Dusty Kahl located the baptismal certificate and provided us a copy. An image of the relevant part of the certificate may be seen on the following page. The entire certificate appears on the page after that.

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<sup>1</sup> Lynn E. Garn, *The Garn Family including Carn, Garnes, Garns and Gern*, (Woodbridge, VA, 2011).



As may be seen, the certificate is in old German script. We have converted the script in the center to modern letters, which may be seen below.

*Geburt und Tauf-Schein*  
*Diesen beyden [sic, beiden] Ehegatten als, Johannes Kehl*  
*und seiner ehelichen Hausfrau, Christina*  
*eine geboren Gern ist ein Sohn zur*  
*Welt geboren, im Jahr unseres Herrn 1818*  
*den 31 October dieser Sohn ist*  
*geboren in Pennsylvania Nord-Ame-*  
*rika in Fränklin Caunty [sic, County], und*  
*ist getauft worden mit dem*  
*Namen Jonathan*  
*von Hrn. Predi-*  
*ger Möller*  
*den 24 Sept.*  
*1819*

The words on the lower right are as follows:

*Taufzeugen waren:*  
*die eltern selber*

Our translation of these is as follows:<sup>[2]</sup>

*Birth and Baptismal Certificate*

*[To] these two spouses as, John Kehl and his marital [or legitimate] housewife, Christina born as Gern[,] a son born in the year of our Lord 1818 the 31st of October, this son was born in Pennsylvania, North-America in Franklin County, and has been baptized with the name Jonathan by Mr. Preacher Möller the 24 Sept. 1819*

*Godparents were:  
the parents themselves*

Below we present the entire certificate for those who may wish to see it. The writing on the top of the certificate appears to be poems which do not provide specific information about Jonathan Kahl or his birth.



The second conclusion that is supported by the finding of the baptismal certificate comes from a note found with the certificate. The note provides additional evidence that Jacob Garn, person #27, was a brother of Christina Gern, person #26. Dusty Kahl, granddaughter of Charlotte Kahl mentioned above, reported that before Charlotte

<sup>2</sup> Translation courtesy of our merging of Google and Babel Fish translation services.

acquired the certificate, it had been in the possession of Marjorie Kahl Lawrence, who wrote the biography about Elmer Kahl, which we cited in our book in connection with the biographies of both Jonathan Kahl, person #91, and his wife Sarah Garn, person #98.<sup>3</sup> Marjorie Kahl Lawrence had laminated and mounted the certificate in a frame. When Dusty Kahl and her grandmother Charlotte Kahl removed the certificate from the frame to copy it, they found a note which, according to Dusty Kahl, was in Marjorie Kahl Lawrence's handwriting. That note is reproduced below.

Jonathan Kahl  
& Christina Garn Kahl  
(Grandpa & Grandma were  
1st cousins)  
John born 1818  
Oct 31  
Pennsylvania north  
america Franklin  
Co  
given name of  
Johnathan Baptized  
Sep 24 1919  
Baptismal Cert

<sup>3</sup> Marjorie Kahl Lawrence, *A Star In His Right Hand*, (Mulberry, IN 1986), available at the Ohio Genealogical Society, Bellville, Ohio, and the Franklin County Historical Society, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

Our transcript of this note is as follows:

*Johannes Kehl [sic]  
& Christina Garn Kahl  
(Grandpa & Grama [sic] were  
1st cousins)  
John [sic] born 1818  
Oct 31  
Pennsylvania North  
America Franklin  
Co.  
given name of  
Jonathan Baptized  
Sep 24 1919  
Baptismal Cert*

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In this note Marjorie Kahl Lawrence first reported that Jonathan's name was John and that he was given the name Jonathan when he was baptized. We believe that she misinterpreted his name as John because the German word for son is Sohn and the "S" in the word Sohn in the old German script on the baptismal certificate looks a lot like a modern "J." The vertical lines through Johannes and Christina's names on the note appear to be marks left by rust from a paperclip that may have once held the note.

The significance of this note is that Marjorie Kahl Lawrence reports that her grandparents, Jonathan Kahl (#91) and Sarah Garn (#98), were first cousins. Marjorie clearly added the 1st-cousin comment to explain why Christina's surname was the same as the surname of Jonathan's wife and to insure that future readers of the certificate understood that Christina's surname on the certificate was not a mistake. This note establishes that Sarah Garn's father Jacob Garn (#27) was a brother of Jonathan's mother Christina Gern (#26). Since Appendix 17 of our book establishes that Christina Gern was a sister of Samuel Gerns (#28), who is proven in our book to be a son of Conrad Gern (#10), this note is additional evidence that Jacob Garn was also a son of Conrad Gern.

The final conclusion that the evidence on the baptismal certificate supports is our conclusion that Conrad Gern's family attended the Grindstone Hill or Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guilford Twp., Franklin Co., Pennsylvania. In the biography of Conrad Gern in our book, we postulated that his family probably attended this church based on burials of several Gerns in the church cemetery including a Barbara Gern whom we postulated was Conrad's wife.

The baptismal certificate of Jonathan Kahl, which we showed earlier, reports that a Mr. Möller was the minister who performed the baptism. The records of the Grindstone Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church report that the Reverend John Frederick Moeller [sic] was the minister of the church from 1816 until 1829, which encompasses the time when

Jonathan Kahl was baptized.<sup>[4]</sup> Therefore we believe Jonathan Kahl's parents John Kahl and Christina Gern attended that church. Jonathan Kahl's baptism there supports our conclusion that Christina's parents Conrad and Barbara Gern also attended that church.

Copies of the book *The Garn Family including Carn, Garnes, Garns and Gern* have been placed at several libraries and historical societies including the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, the Ohio Genealogical Society in Bellville, Ohio, Ashland Genealogical Society in Ashland, Ohio, Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center Library in Fremont, Ohio, Franklin County Historical Society in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania and several other libraries in the areas of Ohio where the Kahl and Garn families lived. Copies of the book may also be purchased from the Bedford County Historical Society in Bedford, Pennsylvania.

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<sup>4</sup> Rev. D. H. Foght, *A Discourse Portraying the History of the Grindstone Hill Ev. Lutheran Church, in Franklin County, Pennsylvania*, Delivered on Christmas, Monday, Dec. 25th, 1854, (Gettysburg, PA, 1855), pp. 16 and 17.