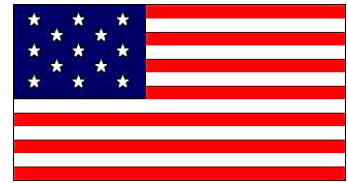




Pennsylvania Longrifle



1st Pennsylvania Rifles
Regimental Colors



Johann Jacob Stephan Jr.
Ensign Pennsylvania Militia
21 May 1777 – 15 November 1783

Johann (who went by the name of Jacob) was born at home in 1746 in Macungie Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The family lived in a log house built by his father at the intersection of Spring Creek and Mill Creek Roads on land which eventually became part of Lower Macungie Township. The log house was replaced by a stone house, built by Jacob's brother, **Johann Adam**, in 1792. The stone house still stands there today. Jacob's parents, **Johann Jacob Stephan Sr.** (30 November 1695 – 1 February 1760) and **Maria Magdalena Neubacher** (c.1724 – before 1750), and their daughter, **Anna Margret**, emigrated from Wolfersweiler, Germany, arriving in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1744 aboard the ship *Phoenix*. After the American Revolutionary War broke out in 1775, the Pennsylvania Militia (previously called the Pennsylvania Associators) was formed in March 1777. In June 1776, Jacob was appointed to collect firearms from the Non-Associators and other disaffected persons in the township who were not in the Pennsylvania Associators or not loyal to the American cause. Jacob and his brother, Johann Adam, joined the Pennsylvania Northampton County Militia on 21 May 1777. Jacob became Ensign in the 2nd Company Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment (also known as the 1st Continental Army Regiment). The 2nd Company consisted of Militiamen from Macungie Township. Captain George Knappenberger commanded the Company, and Colonel George Breinig commanded the Battalion. The Pennsylvania Militia initially was assigned as a mobile reserve with the mission of assisting in the defense of New Jersey from British invasion. After Jacob joined the Militia, his company joined up with other Pennsylvania Militia in Chester, Pennsylvania, where they were placed under the command of Major General John Armstrong on 27 August 1777. The Regiment then participated in the Battles of Brandywine (10–11 September 1777); Germantown (4 October 1777), and Whitmarsh (5–8 December 1777). At Brandywine, Armstrong's Militia held the far left of the American line at Pyle's Ford. They were also assigned to guard the Continental Army's supplies. After a day's fighting, the American Army was forced to withdraw or face being surrounded. General Armstrong brought his militia and the supplies out under cover of darkness. At Germantown, General Armstrong led the American right. His mission was to skirt the British left flank and attack them there and in their rear. The overall attack was going well until the center of the line was held up at the Benjamin Chew House. The attack then collapsed after a friendly fire incident in the fog, in which Major General Adam Stephen's men fired on Anthony Wayne's troops, causing the Army to withdraw, including Armstrong's Militia which had advanced nearly to the center of Germantown. At Whitmarsh, British General Howe launched a surprise attack on the Americans where they were encamped, but the British plan had been compromised by spies, and the Americans were well prepared. Three days of non-decisive skirmishing followed, after which the British returned to Philadelphia for the winter. George Washington also withdrew the Continental Army, encamping at Valley Forge for the winter. After that, the Pennsylvania Militia's role in the Revolutionary War was essentially over. However, the Pennsylvania Militia remained in existence as an inactive duty organization, and became known as "Rangers on the Frontiers" on 14 May 1778. The responsibility of the Rangers was to protect families living on the Pennsylvania frontier from Native Americans who had allied themselves with the British from 1778 to 1783. Sometime in 1780, Jacob was reassigned to the Rangers' 7th Company, 1st Battalion of the Macungie Militia, under the command of Captain Casimir Greenemeyer and Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Balliet, respectively. The Rangers were called on twice for active duty on the frontier. On 22 May 1783, Jacob was reassigned to the 1st Company, 3rd Battalion of the Macungie Militia under command of Captain Michael Shaffer and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Trexler, respectively. Three weeks later, on 11 June 1783, the Regiment was furloughed at Philadelphia and was disbanded five months later on 15 November 1783. Jacob married **Maria Catherine Herman** (c.1749 – c.1809) in Macungie Township prior to the outbreak of the Revolution, sometime around 1767. Jacob and Maria had nine children: **Magdalena**, **Jacob III**, **Elizabeth**, **Catharina**, **Frederick**, **Jonathan**, **Isaac**, **Mary**, and **Philip**. Jacob died on 12 February 1807. Jacob's place of burial is unknown.