

Letter no 1

May 3, 1957

Dear Mr. LaMaster,

For the past two years I have been working on the LaMaster family history. I have gathered a lot of data including the Lamaster Coat of arms, Revolutionary soldiers, the story of the Lamaster fortune of Baltimore. I belong to the group of 3 brothers Jesse, Hugh and Zacobiah Lamaster who were in Baltimore in the 1700's. Then my group went to Va + on to Scott Co, Ind. The original name was Le Maistre in French meaning the Master

I am now trying to straighten out all of these groups. Would you please write me what you know of your ancestors, giving your grandparents names, gt. grandparents etc.

In a month or so I am planning on making some carbon copies of coat of arms. I'd be glad to send you one if you are interested. I also have a 16 page pamphlet on the my LaMaster family + the families who married into it.

If you don't know anything about the  
La Masters would you please send this  
letter to a relative who might or to  
another La master in Akron.

Hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Margaret Heberger.

My group. My 4th gt. grandfather

Jesse Lamaster married Catharine Sitter.

Children - Reuben, Hugh, Abraham, John married  
Sarah Vest, Zacariah, Susan Vest, Polly Sitter.

My 3rd gt. grandfather - in Va

John Lamaster married Sarah Vest.

Children John, Eli, Abraham m. Jane Sommerville  
Richard R., Zacariah, James m. Nancy Kimberlin,

Nancy Mouser, Amy Lewis, Sarah Law + Mary Ann

My 2nd gt grandfather - born Va. moved to Indiana

James Lamaster (b. 1760-1770) m. Nancy Kimberlin

Children

Sarah Lamaster Whitlatch

John "

Abraham "

Isaac "

Louis "

Jacob "

Ruth Lamaster Cline

Susan " m. New

Ursula " Somers

Richard Rankin Lamaster m. Jane Gladden

my gt. grandfather

3) which means "John, son of Nels" my  
gt. grandfather was Nels Johnson and  
his dad was John \_\_\_\_? Confusing  
isn't it? My grandfathers bro. + sis. were.  
Carna, Alna, Jennie, Nels, Hanna, Anna  
and Betty. The Betty is an odd name  
in Sweden. I wish I had named my  
little girl Carna instead of Cindy. My  
family records are 2½" thick - I sure  
"got off" of the Lamasters, so had better  
get "back on"

Your Lamasters really fit  
in with mine as my mom is the only  
Republican in the bunch. I can't  
understand why so many Lamasters  
used names Hugh, Abraham, James +  
Richard. Every line has these same  
names.

Well I must apologize again for  
raving + rambling, but if you could  
see this "mess" of data, you would  
understand why. If you want master  
roll let me know + I'll send it. It would  
take weeks to get it from Wash. D. C.

Letter no 2

May 7

Dear La Masters,

I am in a "mixed up mess". I wrote to 4 different La Masters in Akron. Two, I was sure were distantly related, and now I don't know if you are one of the two or not. One had heard of the La Master fortune in Baltimore and one was descended from Isaac La Master, who was a brother of my great grandfather, Richard Ranken La Master. I wrote to Harold La Master's wife, 115 N. Arlington, a La Master at 2667 E. Benton, to you and a W<sup>m</sup> E. on 173-217. W. You may be related to some of these, as I know nothing about the Akron La Masters.

Anyway I am enclosing a pamphlet on my line. You notice the spelling is Leannasters, Lemaster and La Master. My mother always used



La Master. If you are descendants of Isaac, he is listed on page 7 child no 4 of James Lemaster & Nancy Kimberlin. On page 3 it lists the generations.

Page 7 also gives the aunts & uncles of Isaac. To check who are on page 7 by relationship - check it with page 3 and it is easy to understand.

Page 5 & 6 gives the story of the Baltimore fortune, but last week I received 4 typewritten pages on the whole story. There were really 2 fortunes one in Germany & one in Baltimore, both through Mathias Sitzer, whose daughter Catharine married Jesse Lemaster. I am going to get the story run off the ditto ~~on~~ and will send you a copy, also La Master Coat of arms, if you want it.

If my line isn't the same as yours, I would still like to have ~~it~~ yours as maybe sometime it will connect

2) Last week I connected a group of La Masters in Kansas City with a group in Musco, Mo. Today I believe I connected one in Zanesville, Ohio & one in Williamsburg, West Va. Someday I hope to get them all together.

We have a La Master reunion the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. in Aug. This year it is in Columbus, Ind. We had a cold rainy day last year in Indianapolis and only had 135 there. We have really only got it started. There have been 6 or 7 but started out with just my mothers family & has really grown.

I was very glad to hear from you and if you have any questions please write.

I will be very happy to receive your data - No charge for pamphlet. Drop me a card & let me know if you are the same line as mine, I'll be anxious to know. A distant relative?  
Margaret H.

My line.

- 1. Margaret Nelson Herberger - Oct 13, 1917 - Marshall Co, Ill
- 2. Dona La Master Nelson Oct 5, 1897 - Scott Co, Ind
- 3. Barney Jefferson La Master July 4, 1853 " " "
- 4. Richard R. La Master - Nov 14, 1822 " " "
- 5. James La Master (Le Master) 1760-1770 - Virginia  
Nancy Kimberlin

- 6. { John La Master (Le Master) about 1740 Virginia  
Sarah Vest  
John Kimberlin - 1751 - of Hampshire Co, W. Va  
Ruth Jones

My mother is listed  
page 13, ched no 10 Dona  
My grandfather page 12  
Barney J. ched no 6 (top of page)  
My gr. grandfather page 7  
ched no 10 Richard Benkin

- 7. Jesse La Master  
Catharine Sittler  
Peter Kimberlin  
Miss Clendennis

- 8. Mathias Sittler b-1716 Germany d 1787 Baltimore  
Catharine —

- 9. Baron Mathias Von Sittler b-<sup>June 4</sup> 1651 Germany  
d 1745 " "

- 10. Frederick Sittler  
Elizabeth —

In Germany Sittler was Sedler.

no 8 left Baltimore money  
no 9. left "millions"  
in Germany

Here is brief summary of material I just received on fortune.

Mathias Selter's father was Baron Mathias Von Selter & June 4, 1651. He was born in Westphalia Ger. Was in banking business - Mathias (jr) & his bro. Dietrich (my other record said John) left the Roman Catholic Church & joined Lutheran. The old Baron "kicked" them out & they came to Penn in 1736. The Baron died in 1745 but his will was not to be read for 100 years (1845) & the King of Prussia was a trustee. The Selters sent a lawyer to Ger & he returned saying there was an estate worth millions. In 1897 the Ger. govt put an ad in New York paper trying to find heirs. a Selter Ger. Soc. was formed to collect money - Lawyers wanted 25% Selters wouldn't pay lawyers that much so they dropped it. Article said the wealthy grandsons of M. Selter, living in Penn, paid no attention to notices from Germany

# Baltimore Fortune

Mathias Sittler lease ground in 1776 for  
99 years - That land is now  $\frac{1}{2}$  the  
city of Baltimore. In <sup>1897</sup>~~1740~~ the heirs  
formed Ger. Soc. to collect Baltimore money &  
use it to collect German fortune. Also  
said when Mathias died in 1787 he left  
a ~~small~~ large unsettled estate in Baltimore

June 24

Dear Virginia,

I received your letter. Glad you enjoyed the James Leemaster grant. Also thanks for the Leemaster names. I'll send them on to Vernon in Salt Lake City as he spells his name Lee master.

It was my Grandfather who died. He had a stroke while eating dinner and never regained Consciousness. We were all hoping he would reach 100 as his mind was so clear and alert, but wouldn't have wanted him helpless or to suffer so I guess it is better this way. I have a recording he made of his trip from Sweden in 1881. He didn't know we were recording it. He was about 90 at that time and it is really interesting. We brought him back here for burial. He really didn't look more than 70.

I am sending some material. I have other copies of it, so there is



no hurry about typing it. After you read it, you may not even want it. I have more interesting data but only one copy. As I want to take it to the reunion (Aug 18) and I use it to check for other people, I'll wait and send it when you are ready to type. I'm also including the muster roll. If you want it you may have it for the price of my photocopy. Don't feel obligated to take it. I imagine it would cost quite a bit to photocopy as they charge 70¢ to 90¢ a page here, but the National Archives & libraries photocopy cheaper. I really don't care about it as it isn't my James and I typed a copy like I sent you. I'm no typist & it took me an hour. Really wish I could type. It doesn't make any difference to me if you photocopy or take this one, I just thought you would like to see it.

I rechecked some of my notes

P.S. Cindy is 8. Blonde pony tail,  
brown eyes. very small boned.

Besides family recording I collect antiques.  
Have 100 piece set tea leaf, beer steins,  
onion pattern kitchen spice set, canisters  
etc, spinning wheel, yarn winder, coal  
hod, shaving mugs, lamps, clocks,  
coverlet, some furniture, "knick-knacks".  
Also love to cook, design houses,  
refinish furniture. (I took all the  
finish off of all my furniture). Our  
house has all wooden walls & ceiling.  
No paper or plaster anywhere. Redwood  
kitchen, pine bedroom & bath, Cedar  
in den, spruce in other bedroom, Sedar  
in living & dining room. It really easy  
to clean. All my furniture is Early Am.  
& maple.

I also copy old cemeteries, my sis  
& I have copied 86 - about 10,000  
names. All indexed. Will turn in  
a copy to State Library. So I don't have  
time for flowers, but my mom has some  
beautiful irises, oriental poppies, roses etc

2) and in a letter from Mrs. Reley  
(to Miss Mahin) she said she had  
Corresponded with Orem LaMaster of  
Litchfield, Ky. I imagine this is your  
Orem...

I am also including the pamphlet  
I made for the reunion (no charge) although  
the Siler-LaMaster data isn't your line,  
it still is LaMaster history and I thought  
you would enjoy it.

I will be on vacation from  
July 5 to 14 so don't send material back  
until then. If you want my other  
material drop me a card and I will  
mail it. Your sister-in-law could  
type it first and I won't be using  
it until after the 14th. You may  
just want to read it and not type  
it at all. Let me know when you receive  
this material. With best regards,

Margaret.

Did you ever hear  
from Maurice in  
Overland Park, Kansas? Let me know, if not, I'll send  
his line

Fri P.M.

Dear Virginia,

I received your card and check. Glad you enjoyed master roll. I certainly wish I could find one for my Lemasters as they are really interesting, your James served at Valley Forge and the amount of pay! Lots of us grupe at today's conditions, guess we don't have much to grupe about.

I received an order for a pamphlet from N. Y. Public Library + Va. State Library today. News certainly gets around. Maybe we will find some more Lemasters. I'm enclosing the Maurice Lemaster data. I really laughed at her being afraid I was colored.

I also connected or found a Lemaster line for a lady in Calif. She had been hunting for an Ary Lemaster. Her line fit in with Vernon Lemaster of Franklın, Ind. I just sent her the line back to 1776. Think I'll turn professional!

You didn't say if you wanted the rest of my data now or not. Will be glad to mail it before we leave July 5

If you drop me a line. You better send it airmail. I have part of the lines mentioned in the last pamphlet, the other Cost of arms, story of Lemasters, Penn, story of the Award of the Golden Horseshoe, story of monument at Point Pleasant, German Lemasters of Penn, service of Ben. Lemaster Rev. War, biography of Jonathan Lemaster, Mormon, and personal letters regarding Lemasters. Will be glad to send all or any ones ~~and~~ you want.

We are only going to upper Wis + Mich. fishing. This is my husbands trip. I took mine in Feb. when we went to New Orleans. Guess Cindy has her choice nest.

No hurry at all on other data. I have another copy. If you don't want data mentioned above, <sup>now</sup> just drop me a card when you do. We live 8 miles from Peo. & our mail doesn't come until 3 P. M. That's the reason I suggested airmail

Margaret



C. M. R. 158  
Int. Hawley Rd.  
Peoria, Ill.  
Jan. 2, 1959

Dear Virginia,

I am enclosing some notes on the connection of the LaMaster to the Sittler family. These LaMasters are my group. According to this article they came from Va. to Henry Co., Ky. Since your group was also in Henry Co. (made from Shelby & Jefferson Co.) I feel there is a connection, if we can ever find it. Anyway, without proving a connection, it is interesting reading. I received a letter from Grace Mahen in Dec. and she may stop and see me next summer. I hope she does as I would like to discuss all our LaMasters. Her gt. grandfather lived for awhile in Scott Co., Ind. That is where my LaMasters settled after leaving Ky.

Cindy was so proud of your letter to her. She read it to everyone who would listen. She has it "saved" in her stacks and stacks of possessions. I kept two baby books for her. I started scrap books of cards, letters, etc but after 3 books, I just file all her things in large envelopes. I did start an account



of her experiences and have about 60 pages to date. Of course, she didn't write the Christmas greeting by herself, but since her picture was on the card, I thought it was a cute idea to write her memories. I'm sure everyone knew a 9 year old didn't write it. I did appreciate you taking time during such a busy season to write her such a long letter. She received many letters but yours was the nicest and longest. She loves to get mail and "bubbles over" every bit she receives. She is such a happy person and gets a thrill out of little things. I took a picture of my prize picture and am enclosing one. She was almost a year old when it was taken. My shadow spoils it, but you can get an idea how it looks.

If I ever find any more news on La Masters, I'll let you know.

Best wishes for a good 1959

Margaret.

YEAR 1905

### The story of the struggle of the Von Sitler Heirs.

The Von Sitler heirs of this country and \$350,000,000 now in the hands of the German Government and said to be due them as heirs of Baron Matthias Von Sitler, who died in 1775 ( 1745 ) is one of much interest. An effort was first made to acquire the fabulous sum in 1885 and has continued almost unceasingly until the present time when heirs say their prospects of becoming wealthy are brighter now than ever.

Now that the struggle is believed to be drawing to a close, the members of the Matthias Sister Society recently requested a Mr. Wm. J. Siter of Robinson, Illinois, a great, great grandson of Matthias Sitler who has been most untiring in his efforts to get the millions for the rightful heirs, to write the story of how and why the treasures have never fallen to the heirs, and also to write an account of what has been done since 1885 to secure the money.

The sketch was read last night at a meeting of the Society at the home of Mrs George Hoffman, 1100 North Stricker Street. Mr. Wm. Sitler also stated in his letter that he would soon go to Germany to complete the investigation. The story as told by Mr. Wm. Sitler is as follows.

Baron Von Sitler was the owner of a large Baronial estate in Bavaria, Germany. And was engaged also in the manufacturing of silks. With his already inherited wealth and that made from his manufacturing it was estimated that his fortune amounted to at least \$50,000,000 ( fifty million dollars ) for he was counted to be an extremely wealth man.

The old Baron was a staunch Catholic, but his two sons ( Herman and Dietrich ) and one daughter ( Elizabeth ) Sitler became followers of the great Martin Luther and entered the folds of Protestantism. When the rumors of this came to the Von Sitler Castle and family and it reached the ears of the testy old Lord, he immediately called his children to him and scolded them roughly and disowned them. The three then decided to leave the old country and to try their fortune in a new world. The father furnished a substantial sum and told them to make the best use possible of it as it would be the last they would receive from him, and they set sail on September the 2nd, 1736 for America. After they left the father dictated a most un-usual will, investing his wealth in German Government Bonds and 99 year Bonds, when when realized the money was to be turned over to his children's children.

The voyage was tedious as all ocean voyages in that day. and the only incident which is of interest was the robbery of part of the money was Dietrich carried. The little party landed in Philadelphia with Dietrich locating in Berks County, Penna., and Matthias in York, Penn. Matthias purchased 250 acres of land in the vicinity of York and then building a house and barns began his life in this country as a farmer.

The Lutheran Church in York having a poor congregation as to funds, he built a church and donated it to its members. He then purchased there 8,500 acres of land which afterwards he sold and in 1740 (?) moved to the town of Baltimore, which at that time consisted of only a few houses. He bought a piece of land

and soon transferred it into a beautiful Dutch Garden. This was the pride of his life. And he never expected to sell it, but an English Admirer of the Garden, however doubt repeatedly by ~~by~~ and Matthias put what he thought was a prohibitive price on it, the figure being \$60,000 cash in English Gold. And it was paid without question as the records of the Court House show under the date of July 29, 1779.

Matthias then wrote his son Benjamin Sitler who was a Chief Commissary Officer to General George Washington, of the sale of the Garden and he stated that he was ready and willing to assist the cause of Liberty. This the son divulged to General Washington, who immediately came to Baltimore, under heavy escort. He dined with the wealthy German and left the same night with ninety-thousand dollars ( \$90,000 ) loaned him by Matthias Sitler.

Later when President, Mr. Washington repaid the note in full giving Matthias \$0,000 acres of land located in the Shenandoah Valley. Virginia, and the German also invested a large amount of money which he put out in 99 year leases. These leases by Court records it is claimed having now expired. This property is located on Howard, Lexington, Fayette and Lombard Streets. Mr. Wm. Sitler says that he has made several visits to the city of Baltimore in an effort to straighten out this tangle.

Records of the family were handed down from generation to generation until finally they came into the hands of a Mrs. Mary S. Sitler who resided in Baltimore. She died in the year of 1884 at the age of 85 years, Prior to her death however Mrs A. H. Lyeth, her niece took the papers which were then stored in a barrall and burned the entire contents. Mrs Sitler, objected tearfully, but Mrs Lygeth thought it was only a whim of hers keeping the cumbersome boxes of old papers in the barrall and to get rid of them she burned the valuable records. Had these papers been retained, it would have been a very easy matter it is claimed, for the heirs to have established their claims with the German Government; and to prove in 1885 they were to be the rightful heirs to the millions held by the Germans.

Tiring of the efforts of the others, Mrs Mary S. Sitler in 1884. this being just one year before she died, said that she would do what the male heirs had always feared to do, and go to Germany herself. And she made preparation to visit Germany to establish the claim for the heirs. Mrs Sitler was comfortably fixed with this worlds goods and made every preparation for the trip even to packing her trunks and purchasing her tickets, when on the night before that she was planning for her departure. she was taken ill and died several weeks later.

Then the following summer of 1885 the German Government sent an agent to this country to locate the heirs. He came to this country and stated that the 99 year leases were due in the German Government, who was ready to pay the money amounting to the sum of \$350,000,000 to the proper persons and happy to do it to clear their records.



The agent remained in Baltimore Town for five months. His attempts to get the Sitler heirs to agree to a proper division were fruitless. The rich it seemed wished to lessen the portions of the poorer heirs, but to this settlement the agent would not agree, stating that the division would be made according to genealogy if it would not be made, at all. The authorized agent on his search for records proving the heirs, found in the old graveyard at Paca and Lombard streets the grave of one Matthias Sitler and his wife. " This is the man I am after " he said. " Allow me to take these stones to Germany and the authenticity of your claims will be established. But factors having a risen between the heirs the suggestion was refused. And the agent returned to his Emperor.

In 1880 ( date doesn't agree ) when the old Dunkard Graveyard was sold and the tombstones were removed, the tombstones were placed in coffins, which was buried in Greenmount Cemetery. The stones were only inches below the surface of the ground in lot "Ensor's plot. This information Mr. Wm. Sitler, Robinson, Illinois, claims was gotten from the keeper of the cemetery in 1899, Rumor has it that since that time, one stones has been stolen.

A second agent from Germany later ~~was sent~~ to this country and called upon the Secretary of the State, but was told to have Thaddeus Stephens, who was Congressman from that part of Penn. near York to investigate the merits of the claim. Stephens made an investigation and offered to secure the money for \$ 2500 in cash and 15% of the amount secured as a legal fee. This proposition the Pennsylvania heirs, <sup>to</sup> but those of old Baltimore failed to raise their part of the money for the cash in advance. So this plan also failed. About this time several Societies were formed for bringing the heirs together and winning the German Gold. Mr. Wm. Sitler, who has worked harder than any one of the others of the heirs for success has traveled all over the country writing down claims and making every effort to bring the heirs together.

In 1903 The Society made more determined efforts in the matter of subscribed funds to send an agent from this country to carry on an investigation in that country. And for this task the Reverend J.V. George of Penna. was selected and departed June 24, 1903. He landed in Berlin, Germany, safely. But was almost immediately taken ill and spent some time in a hospital there. However, Mr. Wm. Sitler in his story, says that after Mr. George recovered he made a trip to Southern Germany and visited members of the Sitler family at that place. He then called on the Consul and returned to the U.S.A.

The heirs claimed that his effort made in the later part of the year was un-satisfactory. Since that time the different Societies have attained attorneys both in Germany and in this Country as well, who give legal advise and claim that according to the reports from Germany and this country, everything points to a speedy recovery of the \$ 350,000,000 due them from the German Government, if only the heirs could agree. It is said there are about 250 heirs in this country among whom the millions must be divided. Of these there are about fifteen in this City.

The officers of the Matthias Sitler Society of this City of Baltimore are:

Henry Mettee	1301 Holmwood Ave,	Pres.
Mr Raymond Lyeth	1502 West Baltimore	V. Pres.
Mrs Katie Hoffman	1100 N. Stricker Street	Secy.
Mrs Mary Richmond	2508 Madison Ave.	Treas.

I received the following date from Mrs Raymond Wessendorf, Speed, Indiana in November, 1957 She has the original penciled copy written in 1905. It belonged to her grandfather, John A. LeMaster, who was a decendent of Matthias Sitler, through Catherine Sitler, who married Jesse LaMaster. Mrs Wessendorf wrote me quote: " Now it was in 1905, late in the Fall of the year that my Mother and my grandfather both told me many times, that a Benjamin Sitler from Baltimore, Maryland came to Speed, Indiana looking for heirs to the Sitler fortune. Now this fortune was strictly " Baltimore " Because a Matthias Sitler had died in Baltimore and his estate was never settled. Much the same as the old German fortune in Bavaria, Germany. It too never reached it's rightful heirs. That was left by the old Baron Matthias Von Sitler or Matthias, Sr. My Grandfather always said that the Baltimore Matthias was the son of Herman who settled in York, Pa/ then in Baltimore. Because the story of the struggle if you notice never does even mention Hermans name after they landed ( it says Dietrich in Berks County, Pennsylvania ) ( Matthias in in York, Pennsylvania. Question arises who ~~did~~ this Baltimore Matthias then belong too.? It is said that onlytwo sons and one daughter left the old country ( Elizabeth ) my Grandfather always said that Catherine and Elizabeth that married LaMasters were of a ~~Matthe~~ generation. This could be, they could have been named for their German kinfolk. But this Baltimore Matthias was wealthy in his own rights, not ever having got the German Bonds or gold" end quote.

**Note:**

Other records say Matthias & Dietrich, Herman is not mentioned Where this record does not agree with previous records, I have written in red " M." H "

Margaret Nelson Herberger 1917 b. Ill

Dona LaMaster Nelson 1897 b. Ind

Barney Jefferson LaMaster 1853 b. Ind

Richard Rankin LaMaster 1822 b. Ind

James LeMaster (1760-1770?) b. Va

John LeMaster about 1740 (Had land grant in Va in 1967) <sup>b. Va or md.</sup>

Jesse LeMaster - ~~born~~ <sup>said</sup> to have come to  
Am. before Revolution - approx birth 1720  
probably came to Am about 1735-40.

No proof he wasn't born here. Family  
tradition says 3 bro. Hugh, Jesse & Zacariah  
came to Baltimore, Md.



From my records I believe there are the following groups of La Masters

1. Claude Le maître group came to N.Y. in 1652  
Descendants went to Penn - started iron works  
some use name of De Lemater (Have seen this line, no connection to mine)
2. Abraham Le Maître group came to Maryland before 1668
3. La Masters who came as bodyguards to La Fayette (descendants now living S.C.)
4. Andrew Le Maître - father came from Germany to Pa. before middle 1700's - Had 2 sons - one was Andrew other (Jacob II ?). Andrew's son started city of Lemasters, Pa. Andrew b. on 2/26/1750 (I have this line - no connection to mine)
5. A group came to Ohio - middle 1800's or later (Have part of this group)
6. A group descended from a La Master who married an Indian princess
7. Jesse, Hugh + Zechariah La Master - 3 bro who came to Baltimore (by way of Penn. ?)  
This is my line. I have had letters from several La Masters who mention 3 bro. but no one has had their names, unless I do.

letter no 3

May 30, 1957

Dear Virginia,

I was very pleased to receive your data but am sorry I cannot connect into your family. However I do have a relative of yours to send. Maurice LaMaster 8437 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, Kansas. He is a descendent of Alexander E LaMaster b. 1-18-1812. Alexander E - son of James + Sarah Reed LaMaster. James + your, Abraham (11-21-1792) were brothers. Mrs. Maurice LaMaster sent me their line from Alex E. to the present. If you are interested in "branching out" I'm sure she will send it to you. If she doesn't and you want it, I will. I don't type so won't enclose it this time as it takes so long to write it in long hand.

Also the Grace Mahen in your material, now lives at 4165. Washington Neosho, Missouri. She has established a D. A. R. line for your James LaMaster. I am enclosing two records from



Washington D. C. that I believe is your  
James. I also have some data from  
Vernon Lee Master, 4948 Marilyn Drive,  
Salt Lake City, Utah who said he has a  
record of a James L. Emaster, <sup>born about 1763.</sup> wife Mary  
Irwin - ~~sons~~ children. James, Ann, Hugh  
and Abraham. This ties in with your  
James and gives his wife's last name.  
I sent this to Miss Mahin but she  
thought the birth date (1763) to young  
for a Rev. War soldier. However the  
record says James entered in 7<sup>th</sup> Regt +  
Drum + if he entered in 1776 would  
have been 13 which isn't too young  
for a drummer. I believe Miss Mahin  
has found a lot of material since 1935  
so suggest you write her, as I do not  
have all her data. I do know she has  
found some graves of your La Master  
Group in Kentucky.

If we are related I believe we  
will have to go back to the 3 brothers  
Jesse, Hugh and Zacariah. Jesse is  
my line (pamphlet page 5) and from

2) the names of our lines, we must be related as they are so similar. Also Hugh La Master (Grace Mahan's line) went to Scott Co. Ind & was married there to his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife. I think he might have gone to visit relatives. All of my group were in Scott Co. They came there between 1805 & 1820 from Virginia - Isn't it a mixed up mess?

I am enclosing La Master coat of arms. I'm not an artist but you can get the idea. I wrote to the studio about the stars, but they said 6 points instead of 8. The shaded part is silver & the red a bright cardinal red. It is shaded on my copy and really very pretty. I bought it for a Christmas present from my husband to me (you know women!)

I am making a small 8 page pamphlet for this years reunion - The coat of arms, description, 4 page story of La Master - Setler fortune and a list of La Masters working on their lines. Will send you a copy when I get



it "ditto-ed" The La Master fortune is through  
the Sitty family.

There is a lady in Ky. working  
on La Masters - Mrs. Thomas Riley, 128  
Kennedy Rd - Fort Wright - Covington, Ky  
Your cousin Orem might be close  
enough to contact her. I have sent  
her all my data.

There is also a group in Point  
Pleasant, West Va. who are descended  
from a Rev. War. Scout - Thomas La Master.  
I have lots of data and will send it  
to you, if you are interested in  
copying it. If I could type I would  
copy it. In 1790 there were only 20  
La Master families in the censuses.  
Maryland, Va, Mass, Pa, + South Carolina

Thanks very much for the invitation  
to visit you if I am ever in Akron.  
My grandfather (my Dad's father) lives there  
He is 97 years old. My mother and Dad  
visit him ever so often.

Let me know if you want  
any of the other La Master families

3) I have and I'll send them for your sister-in-law to type. All I ask is that you return my original copy. I keep gathering all I can find hoping to hear from a relative. The La Master living at 2667 E. Benton, Akron is supposed to have talked about La Master fortune so I think he is my relative, but no answer from him. Mrs Harold La Master's husband (deceased) 115 N. Arlington Ave is a descendent of Isaac (pamphlet page 7 child no 4) Isaac was a brother of my great grandfather Richard Rankin La Master. I might have told you but my mother is Dona (b Oct 5, 1897) pamphlet page 13

All of my La Masters were Baptists and Democrats. They were dark, tall and slender, but the women seem to gain weight with age. They also seem to have the trait of large ears. Of course the ones I know & knew would have traits of other families by marriage so it is hard to tell if these are La Master traits. However, several



have written that their La Master family have large ears.

There is supposed to be a La Master who lives near Spartanburg, S. C. who has a coat of arms hand set in gold and rubes that was brought from France over 200 years ago. I have tried to contact him but have never been successful.

There is also a town of Lemasters in Penn, but it was founded by a group whose ancestors came from Germany.

Now please excuse all the "ramblings" but I have tried to jot down interesting things I have found. (There is also a group of Leamasters, Leemasters who are Mormons.) This letter is so mixed up for an ex school teacher, I would have had a fit if one of my students had written it. I have found so many things, I included them as I remembered them.

You certainly have some talented people in your group and a family <sup>of which</sup> to be proud. There seems

④ to be no doubt we are descended from French royalty. I have also heard there were colored Le masters, but it would only show our families owned slaves who, when freed, took their master's name.

I must close and sketch coat of arms so I can get this in the mail. Please feel free to write me any questions you have and I will answer them if I can.

Thanks again for your data.

Best wishes,

Margaret H.

P.S. I have few  
LaMaster traits  
I'm 5' tall  
weigh 118 -  
small ears.  
dark hair  
dark complexion

(over)



There is a book called "Ohio Valley Genealogy" by Charles Hanna that is said to have quite a few La Masters in it. He also wrote several other histories of Ohio Valley. A Miss Verna D Hanna also wrote an account of La Masters. Both lived in Kentucky and died several years ago. I have never been able to find any of their books in the Peoria or Springfield libraries. Perhaps they are in Akron library.

I thank you for your

Best wishes,

H. T. ...

P. O. ...  
...  
...  
...  
...  
...  
...

(over)

Letter no 4

June 8

Dear Virginia,

Was glad to hear you enjoyed  
 Coat of arms. If you could see the one  
 I had made, you would think my  
 Copy was a poor job of coloring. This  
 one is outlined in a ~~thin~~ hair line of  
 black around each tiny detail, stars  
 are gold (not yellow as I had), green is dark green  
 red is Cardinal, blue is a medium blue and  
 flowers <sup>on shield</sup> is white. Shield, helmet etc is silver  
 with shades of a darker silver in it. Motto  
 + Le maistre letters are black. Hope this  
 helps with your water colors. The outline is  
 exact as I held mine up to the window  
 to trace it.

About the Coat of Arms in S. C.  
 This was written by Darrell Lemaster Aug 12,  
 1956. His address at that time was Chicago  
 Heights. He travels and I do not have his  
 present address. Quote "There is a large  
 number of families in S. C. by the Lemaster  
 name + all are distant relatives of each  
 other. Of course there are family groups too.  
 There is one old fellow near Spartenburg



who owns a furniture store in a little town north of there that has a family crest of gold & hand set. Is supposed to have come from the old country and is proclaimed to be more than two centuries old. In the next few years I am going to go down there again and take a look". Darrell was at the reunion last year and said it had rubies on it for a red chevron. There is a J. T. LeMaster 399 Woodside Lane, Spartanburg, S.C. who said "5 years ago ~~he~~ I could have gotten a record 5 generations back. The man has died & I can't get the record"

His people first came from France as a body guard for La Fayette.

Margaret Crem Riley of Covington Ky is descended from Nancy Lemaster (d. 1817) Nancy married David Adams (1785 d. 1856) I have lots of Ky Lemaster data but cannot connect them.

This week I connected a group in Zanesville, Ohio with some relatives and maybe back to the group of Lemasters who came from

3) Germany (probably French Huguenot who fled to Germany) to Penn. before 1750. I have the story of part of this group.

I am enclosing a photocopy concerning James Lemaster who was in Rev. & is probably yours, as far as I have been able to find there was only 1 James in Rev. You can have it photocopied & then return my copy. I also have 7 pages of his muster roll if you want to have it photocopied I'll send it.

There is also a Mrs Lucy Smith, New Castle, Ky. who is supposed to know some Lamaster history. Perhaps Orem La Master might contact her sometime

If you don't hear from your relatives in Overland Park, Kansas let me know and I'll send their line. When your sister in-law is ready to type drop me a card and I'll send material. I have about 100 pages of material, which isn't my line. You may not want it all.

The following all served in Rev. from Va. - John, Benjamin, Hugh, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, George, James & Thomas Lemaster. Quite a group by the same



name.

The Maryland Hist. Soc. in Baltimore has a lot of information. Perhaps Oren's daughter can connect our families. Since both our groups went from Md. to Va my guess is that your James is a son of one of Jesse's (my 4th gt. grandfather) sons, if we connect, or a son of Jesse's brothers. Although there were other groups of Lemasters in Baltimore I have quite a few notes from 1668 to - 1820 on Baltimore Lemaster's.

I would appreciate if you would send me the names + addresses of the one La Master + 2 Lee Masters in the telephone directory. I'll send the Lee Masters on to one in Salt Lake City, who spells his name same way. Also any Gladden, Kemberlin or Whirlatch

My mother said she would call you if they come to Akron to see my grandfather. He came to this country in 1881. I have quite a lot of history on the Nelsons, but in Sweden the children take the father's first name, add "son" + it becomes their last name. My grandfather is John Nelson

Letter no 1

May 3, 1957

Dear Mr. LaMaster,

For the past two years I have been working on the LaMaster family history. I have gathered a lot of data including the Lamaster Coat of arms, Revolutionary soldiers, the story of the Lamaster fortune of Baltimore. I belong to the group of 3 brothers Jesse, Hugh and Zacobah Lamaster who were in Baltimore in the 1700's. Then my group went to Va + on to Scott Co, Ind. The original name was Le Maistre in French meaning the Master

I am now trying to straighten out all of these groups. Would you please write me what you know of your ancestors, giving your grandparents names, gt. grandparents etc.

In a month or so I am planning on making some carbon copies of coat of arms. I'd be glad to send you one if you are interested. I also have a 16 page pamphlet on the my LaMaster family + the families who married into it.

If you don't know anything about the  
La Masters would you please send this  
letter to a relative who might or to  
another La master in Akron.

Hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Margaret Heberger.

My group. My 4th gt. grandfather

Jesse Lamaster married Catharine Sitter.

Children - Reuben, Hugh, Abraham, John married  
Sarah Vest, Zacariah, Susan Vest, Polly Sitter.

My 3rd gt. grandfather - in Va

John Lamaster married Sarah Vest.

Children John, Eli, Abraham m. Jane Sommerville

Richard R., Zacariah, James m. Nancy Kimberlin,

Nancy Mouser, Amy Lewis, Sarah Law + Mary Ann

My 2nd gt grandfather - born Va. moved to Indiana

James Lamaster (b. 1760-1770) m. Nancy Kimberlin

Children

Sarah Lamaster Whitlatch

John "

Abraham "

Isaac "

Louis "

Jacob "

Ruth Lamaster Cline

Susan " m<sup>c</sup> New

Ursula " Somers

Richard Rankin Lamaster m. Jane Gladden

my gt. grandfather

3) which means "John, son of Nels" my  
gt. grandfather was Nels Johnson and  
his dad was John \_\_\_\_? Confusing  
isn't it? My grandfathers bro. + sis. were.  
Carna, Alna, Jennie, Nels, Hanna, Anna  
and Betty. The Betty is an odd name  
in Sweden. I wish I had named my  
little girl Carna instead of Cindy. My  
family records are 2½" thick - I sure  
"got off" of the Lamasters, so had better  
get "back on"

Your Lamasters really fit  
in with mine as my mom is the only  
Republican in the bunch. I can't  
understand why so many Lamasters  
used names Hugh, Abraham, James +  
Richard. Every line has these same  
names.

Well I must apologize again for  
raving + rambling, but if you could  
see this "mess" of data, you would  
understand why. If you want master  
roll let me know + I'll send it. It would  
take weeks to get it from Wash. D. C.



Letter no 2

May 7

Dear La Masters,

I am in a "mixed up mess". I wrote to 4 different La Masters in Akron. Two, I was sure were distantly related, and now I don't know if you are one of the two or not. One had heard of the La Master fortune in Baltimore and one was descended from Isaac La Master, who was a brother of my great grandfather, Richard Ranken La Master. I wrote to Harold La Master's wife, 115 N. Arlington, a La Master at 2667 E. Benton, to you and a W<sup>m</sup> E. on 173-217. W. You may be related to some of these, as I know nothing about the Akron La Masters.

Anyway I am enclosing a pamphlet on my line. You notice the spelling is Leannasters, Lemaster and La Master. My mother always used



La Master. If you are descendants of Isaac, he is listed on page 7 child no 4 of James Lemaster & Nancy Kimberlin. On page 3 it lists the generations.

Page 7 also gives the aunts & uncles of Isaac. To check who are on page 7 by relationship - check it with page 3 and it is easy to understand.

Page 5 & 6 gives the story of the Baltimore fortune, but last week I received 4 typewritten pages on the whole story. There were really 2 fortunes one in Germany & one in Baltimore, both through Mathias Sitzer, whose daughter Catharine married Jesse Lemaster. I am going to get the story run off the ditto ~~on~~ and will send you a copy, also La Master Coat of arms, if you want it.

If my line isn't the same as yours, I would still like to have ~~it~~ yours as maybe sometime it will connect

2) Last week I connected a group of La Masters in Kansas City with a group in Musco, Mo. Today I believe I connected one in Zanesville, Ohio & one in Williamsburg, West Va. Someday I hope to get them all together.

We have a La Master reunion the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. in Aug. This year it is in Columbus, Ind. We had a cold rainy day last year in Indianapolis and only had 135 there. We have really only got it started. There have been 6 or 7 but started out with just my mothers family & has really grown.

I was very glad to hear from you and if you have any questions please write.

I will be very happy to receive your data - No charge for pamphlet  
Drop me a card & let me know if you are the same line as mine, I'll be anxious to know.  
A distant relative?  
Margaret H.

My line.

- 1. Margaret Nelson Herberger - Oct 13, 1917 - Marshall Co, Ill
- 2. Dona La Master Nelson Oct 5, 1897 - Scott Co, Ind
- 3. Barney Jefferson La Master July 4, 1853 " " "
- 4. Richard R. La Master - Nov 14, 1822 " " "
- 5. James La Master (Le Master) 1760-1770 - Virginia  
Nancy Kimberlin

- 6. { John La Master (Le Master) about 1740 Virginia  
Sarah Vest  
John Kimberlin - 1751 - of Hampshire Co, W. Va  
Ruth Jones

My mother is listed  
page 13, ched no 10 Dona  
My grandfather page 12  
Barney J. ched no 6 (top of page)  
My gr. grandfather page 7  
ched no 10 Richard Benkin

- 7. Jesse La Master  
Catharine Sittler  
Peter Kimberlin  
Miss Clendennis

- 8. Mathias Sittler b-1716 Germany d 1787 Baltimore  
Catharine —

- 9. Baron Mathias Von Sittler b-<sup>June 4</sup> 1651 Germany  
d 1745 " "

- 10. Frederick Sittler  
Elizabeth —

In Germany Sittler was Sedler.

no 8 left Baltimore money  
no 9. left "millions"  
in Germany

Here is brief summary of material I just received on fortune.

Mathias Selter's father was Baron Mathias Von Selter & June 4, 1651. He was born in Westphalia Ger. Was in banking business - Mathias (jr) & his bro. Dietrich (my other record said John) left the Roman Catholic Church & joined Lutheran. The old Baron "kicked" them out & they came to Penn in 1736. The Baron died in 1745 but his will was not to be read for 100 years (1845) & the King of Prussia was a trustee. The Selters sent a lawyer to Ger & he returned saying there was an estate worth millions. In 1897 the Ger. govt put an ad in New York paper trying to find heirs. a Selter Ger. Soc. was formed to collect money - Lawyers wanted 25% Selters wouldn't pay lawyers that much so they dropped it. Article said the wealthy grandsons of M. Selter, living in Penn, paid no attention to notices from Germany





June 24

Dear Virginia,

I received your letter. Glad you enjoyed the James Leemaster grant. Also thanks for the Leemaster names. I'll send them on to Vernon in Salt Lake City as he spells his name Lee master.

It was my Grandfather who died. He had a stroke while eating dinner and never regained Consciousness. We were all hoping he would reach 100 as his mind was so clear and alert, but wouldn't have wanted him helpless or to suffer so I guess it is better this way. I have a recording he made of his trip from Sweden in 1881. He didn't know we were recording it. He was about 90 at that time and it is really interesting. We brought him back here for burial. He really didn't look more than 70.

I am sending some material. I have other copies of it, so there is

no hurry about typing it. After you read it, you may not even want it. I have more interesting data but only one copy. As I want to take it to the reunion (Aug 18) and I use it to check for other people, I'll wait and send it when you are ready to type. I'm also including the muster roll. If you want it you may have it for the price of my photocopy. Don't feel obligated to take it. I imagine it would cost quite a bit to photocopy as they charge 70¢ to 90¢ a page here, but the National Archives & libraries photocopy cheaper. I really don't care about it as it isn't my James and I typed a copy like I sent you. I'm no typist & it took me an hour. Really wish I could type. It doesn't make any difference to me if you photocopy or take this one, I just thought you would like to see it.

I rechecked some of my notes

P.S. Cindy is 8. Blonde pony tail,  
brown eyes. very small boned.

Besides family recording I collect antiques.  
Have 100 piece set tea leaf, beer steins,  
onion pattern kitchen spice set, canisters  
etc, spinning wheel, yarn winder, coal  
hod, shaving mugs, lamps, clocks,  
coverlet, some furniture, "knick-knacks".

Also love to cook, design houses,  
refinish furniture. (I took all the  
finish off of all my furniture). Our  
house has all wooden walls & ceiling.

No paper or plaster anywhere. Redwood  
kitchen, pine bedroom & bath, Cedar  
in den, spruce in other bedroom, Sedar  
in living & dining room. It really easy  
to clean. All my furniture is Early Am.  
& maple.

I also copy old cemeteries, my sis  
& I have copied 86 - about 10,000  
names. All indexed. Will turn in  
a copy to State Library. So I don't have  
time for flowers, but my mom has some  
beautiful iris, oriental poppies, roses etc



2) and in a letter from Mrs. Reley  
(to Miss Mahin) she said she had  
Corresponded with Orem LaMaster of  
Litchfield, Ky. I imagine this is your  
Orem...

I am also including the pamphlet  
I made for the reunion (no charge) Although  
the Siler-LaMaster data isn't your line,  
it still is LaMaster history and I thought  
you would enjoy it.

I will be on vacation from  
July 5 to 14 so don't send material back  
until then. If you want my other  
material drop me a card and I will  
mail it. Your sister-in-law could  
type it first and I won't be using  
it until after the 14th. You may  
just want to read it and not type  
it at all. Let me know when you receive  
this material. With best regards,

Margaret.

Did you ever hear  
from Maurice in

Overland Park, Kansas? Let me know, if not, I'll send  
his line

Fri P.M.

Dear Virginia,

I received your card and check. Glad you enjoyed master roll. I certainly wish I could find one for my Lemasters as they are really interesting, your James served at Valley Forge and the amount of pay! Lots of us grupe at today's conditions, guess we don't have much to grupe about.

I received an order for a pamphlet from N. Y. Public Library + Va. State Library today. News certainly gets around. Maybe we will find some more Lemasters. I'm enclosing the Maurice Lemaster data. I really laughed at her being afraid I was colored.

I also connected or found a Lemaster line for a lady in Calif. She had been hunting for an Ary Lemaster. Her line fit in with Vernon Lemaster of Franklın, Ind. I just sent her the line back to 1776. Think I'll turn professional!

You didn't say if you wanted the rest of my data now or not. Will be glad to mail it before we leave July 5

If you drop me a line. You better send it airmail. I have part of the lines mentioned in the last pamphlet, the other Cost of arms, story of Lemasters, Penn, story of the Award of the Golden Horseshoe, story of monument at Point Pleasant, German Lemasters of Penn, service of Ben. Lemaster Rev. War, biography of Jonathan Lemaster, Mormon, and personal letters regarding Lemasters. Will be glad to send all or any ones ~~and~~ you want.

We are only going to upper Wis + Mich. fishing. This is my husbands trip. I took mine in Feb. when we went to New Orleans. Guess Cindy has her choice nest.

No hurry at all on other data. I have another copy. If you don't want data mentioned above, <sup>now</sup> just drop me a card when you do. We live 8 miles from Peo. & our mail doesn't come until 3 P. M. That's the reason I suggested airmail

Margaret

C. M. R. 158  
Int. Hawley Rd.  
Peoria, Ill.  
Jan. 2, 1959

Dear Virginia,

I am enclosing some notes on the connection of the LaMaster to the Sittler family. These LaMasters are my group. According to this article they came from Va. to Henry Co., Ky. Since your group was also in Henry Co. (made from Shelby & Jefferson Co.) I feel there is a connection, if we can ever find it. Anyway, without proving a connection, it is interesting reading. I received a letter from Grace Mahan in Dec. and she may stop and see me next summer. I hope she does as I would like to discuss all our LaMasters. Her gt. grandfather lived for awhile in Scott Co., Ind. That is where my LaMasters settled after leaving Ky.

Cindy was so proud of your letter to her. She read it to everyone who would listen. She has it "saved" in her stacks and stacks of possessions. I kept two baby books for her. I started scrap books of cards, letters, etc but after 3 books, I just file all her things in large envelopes. I did start an account



of her experiences and have about 60 pages to date. Of course, she didn't write the Christmas greeting by herself, but since her picture was on the card, I thought it was a cute idea to write her memories. I'm sure everyone knew a 9 year old didn't write it. I did appreciate you taking time during such a busy season to write her such a long letter. She received many letters but yours was the nicest and longest. She loves to get mail and "bubbles over" every bit she receives. She is such a happy person and gets a thrill out of little things. I took a picture of my prize picture and am enclosing one. She was almost a year old when it was taken. My shadow spoils it, but you can get an idea how it looks.

If I ever find anymore news on La Masters, I'll let you know.

Best wishes for a good 1959

Margaret.

YEAR 1905

### The story of the struggle of the Von Sitler Heirs.

The Von Sitler heirs of this country and \$350,000,000 now in the hands of the German Government and said to be due them as heirs of Baron Matthias Von Sitler, who died in 1775 ( 1745 ) is one of much interest. An effort was first made to acquire the fabulous sum in 1885 and has continued almost unceasingly until the present time when heirs say their prospects of becoming wealthy are brighter now than ever.

Now that the struggle is believed to be drawing to a close, the members of the Matthias Sister Society recently requested a Mr. Wm. J. Siter of Robinson, Illinois, a great, great grandson of Matthias Sitler who has been most untiring in his efforts to get the millions for the rightful heirs, to write the story of how and why the treasures have never fallen to the heirs, and also to write an account of what has been done since 1885 to secure the money.

The sketch was read last night at a meeting of the Society at the home of Mrs George Hoffman, 1100 North Stricker Street. Mr. Wm. Sitler also stated in his letter that he would soon go to Germany to complete the investigation. The story as told by Mr. Wm. Sitler is as follows.

Baron Von Sitler was the owner of a large Baronial estate in Bavaria, Germany. And was engaged also in the manufacturing of silks. With his already inherited wealth and that made from his manufacturing it was estimated that his fortune amounted to at least \$50,000,000 ( fifty million dollars ) for he was counted to be an extremely wealth man.

The old Baron was a staunch Catholic, but his two sons ( Herman and Dietrich ) and one daughter ( Elizabeth ) Sitler became followers of the great Martin Luther and entered the folds of Protestantism. When the rumors of this came to the Von Sitler Castle and family and it reached the ears of the testy old Lord, he immediately called his children to him and scolded them roughly and disowned them. The three then decided to leave the old country and to try their fortune in a new world. The father furnished a substantial sum and told them to make the best use possible of it as it would be the last they would receive from him, and they set sail on September the 2nd, 1736 for America. After they left the father dictated a most un-usual will, investing his wealth in German Government Bonds and 99 year Bonds, when when realized the money was to be turned over to his children's children.

The voyage was tedious as all ocean voyages in that day. and the only incident which is of interest was the robbery of part of the money was Dietrich carried. The little party landed in Philadelphia with Dietrich locating in Berks County, Penna., and Matthias in York, Penn. Matthias purchased 250 acres of land in the vicinity of York and then building a house and barns began his life in this country as a farmer.

The Lutheran Church in York having a poor congregation as to funds, he built a church and donated it to its members. He then purchased there 8,500 acres of land which afterwards he sold and in 1740 (?) moved to the town of Baltimore, which at that time consisted of only a few houses. He bought a piece of land

and soon transferred it into a beautiful Dutch Garden. This was the pride of his life. And he never expected to sell it, but an English Admirer of the Garden, however doubt repeatedly by ~~by~~ and Matthias put what he thought was a prohibitive price on it, the figure being \$60,000 cash in English Gold. And it was paid without question as the records of the Court House show under the date of July 29, 1779.

Matthias then wrote his son Benjamin Sitler who was a Chief Commissary Officer to General George Washington, of the sale of the Garden and he stated that he was ready and willing to assist the cause of Liberty. This the son divulged to General Washington, who immediately came to Baltimore, under heavy escort. He dined with the wealthy German and left the same night with ninety-thousand dollars ( \$90,000 ) loaned him by Matthias Sitler.

Later when President, Mr. Washington repaid the note in full giving Matthias \$0,000 acres of land located in the Shenandoah Valley. Virginia, and the German also invested a large amount of money which he put out in 99 year leases. These leases by Court records it is claimed having now expired. This property is located on Howard, Lexington, Fayette and Lombard Streets. Mr. Wm. Sitler says that he has made several visits to the city of Baltimore in an effort to straighten out this tangle.

Records of the family were handed down from generation to generation until finally they came into the hands of a Mrs. Mary S. Sitler who resided in Baltimore. She died in the year of 1884 at the age of 85 years, Prior to her death however Mrs A. H. Lyeth, her niece took the papers which were then stored in a barrrell and burned the entire contents. Mrs Sitler, objected tearfully, but Mrs Lygeth thought it was only a whim of hers keeping the cumbersome boxes of old papers in the barrrell and to get rid of them she burned the valuable records. Had these papers been retained, it would have been a very easy matter it is claimed, for the heirs to have established their claims with the German Government; and to prove in 1885 they were to be the rightful heirs to the millions held by the Germans.

Tiring of the efforts of the others, Mrs Mary S. Sitler in 1884. this being just one year before she died, said that she would do what the male heirs had always feared to do, and go to Germany herself. And she made preparation to visit Germany to establish the claim for the heirs. Mrs Sitler was comfortably fixed with this worlds goods and made every preparation for the trip even to packing her trunks and purchasing her tickets, when on the night before that she was planning for her departure. she was taken ill and died several weeks later.

Then the following summer of 1885 the German Government sent an agent to this country to locate the heirs. He came to this country and stated that the 99 year leases were due in the German Government, who was ready to pay the money amounting to the sum of \$350,000,000 to the proper persons and happy to do it to clear their records.



The agent remained in Baltimore Town for five months. His attempts to get the Sitler heirs to agree to a proper division were fruitless. The rich it seemed wished to lessen the portions of the poorer heirs, but to this settlement the agent would not agree, stating that the division would be made according to genealogy if it would not be made, at all. The authorized agent on his search for records proving the heirs, found in the old graveyard at Paca and Lombard streets the grave of one Matthias Sitler and his wife. " This is the man I am after " he said. " Allow me to take these stones to Germany and the authenticity of your claims will be established. But factors having a risen between the heirs the suggestion was refused. And the agent returned to his Emperor.

In 1880 ( date doesn't agree ) when the old Dunkard Graveyard was sold and the tombstones were removed, the tombstones were placed in coffins, which was buried in Greenmount Cemetery. The stones were only inches below the surface of the ground in lot "Ensor's plot. This information Mr. Wm. Sitler, Robinson, Illinois, claims was gotten from the keeper of the cemetery in 1899, Rumor has it that since that time, one stones has been stolen.

A second agent from Germany later ~~was sent to~~ this country and called upon the Secretary of the State, but was told to have Thaddeus Stephens, who was Congressman from that part of Penn. near York to investigate the merits of the claim. Stephens made an investigation and offered to secure the money for \$ 2500 in cash and 15% of the amount secured as a legal fee. This proposition the Pennsylvania heirs, <sup>to</sup> but those of old Baltimore failed to raise their part of the money for the cash in advance. So this plan also failed. About this time several Societies were formed for bringing the heirs together and winning the German Gold. Mr. Wm. Sitler, who has worked harder than any one of the others of the heirs for success has traveled all over the country writing down claims and making every effort to bring the heirs together.

In 1903 The Society made more determined efforts in the matter of subscribed funds to send an agent from this country to carry on an investigation in that country. And for this task the Reverend J.V. George of Penna. was selected and departed June 24, 1903. He landed in Berlin, Germany, safely. But was almost immediately taken ill and spent some time in a hospital there. However, Mr. Wm. Sitler in his story, says that after Mr. George recovered he made a trip to Southern Germany and visited members of the Sitler family at that place. He then called on the Consul and returned to the U.S.A.

The heirs claimed that his effort made in the later part of the year was un-satisfactory. Since that time the different Societies have attained attorneys both in Germany and in this Country as well, who give legal advise and claim that according to the reports from Germany and this country, everything points to a speedy recovery of the \$ 350,000,000 due them from the German Government, if only the heirs could agree. It is said there are about 250 heirs in this country among whom the millions must be divided. Of these there are about fifteen in this City.



The officers of the Matthias Sitler Society of this City of Baltimore are:

Henry Mettee	1301 Holmwood Ave,	Pres.
Mr Raymond Lyeth	1502 West Baltimore	V. Pres.
Mrs Katie Hoffman	1100 N. Stricker Street	Secy.
Mrs Mary Richmond	2508 Madison Ave.	Treas.

I received the following date from Mrs Raymond Wessendorf, Speed, Indiana in November, 1957 She has the original penciled copy written in 1905. It belonged to her grandfather, John A. LeMaster, who was a decendent of Matthias Sitler, through Catherine Sitler, who married Jesse LaMaster. Mrs Wessendorf wrote me quote: " Now it was in 1905, late in the Fall of the year that my Mother and my grandfather both told me many times, that a Benjamin Sitler from Baltimore, Maryland came to Speed, Indiana looking for heirs to the Sitler fortune. Now this fortune was strictly " Baltimore " Because a Matthias Sitler had died in Baltimore and his estate was never settled. Much the same as the old German fortune in Bavaria, Germany. It too never reached it's rightful heirs. That was left by the old Baron Matthias Von Sitler or Matthias, Sr. My Grandfather always said that the Baltimore Matthias was the son of Herman who settled in York, Pa/ then in Baltimore. Because the story of the struggle if you notice never does even mention Hermans name after they landed ( it says Dietrich in Berks County, Pennsylvania ) ( Matthias in in York, Pennsylvania. Question arises who ~~did~~ this Baltimore Matthias then belong too.? It is said that onlytwo sons and one daughter left the old country ( Elizabeth ) my Grandfather always said that Catherine and Elizabeth that married LaMasters were of a ~~Matthe~~ generation. This could be, they could have been named for their German kinfolk. But this Baltimore Matthias was wealthy in his own rights, not ever having got the German Bonds or gold" end quote.

**Note:**

Other records say Matthias & Dietrich, Herman is not mentioned Where this record does not agree with previous records, I have written in red " M." H "

Margaret Nelson Herberger 1917 b. Ill

Dona LaMaster Nelson 1897 b. Ind

Barney Jefferson LaMaster 1853 b. Ind

Richard Rankin LaMaster 1822 b. Ind

James LeMaster (1760-1770?) b. Va

John LeMaster about 1740 (Had land grant in Va in 1967)  
b. Va or Md.

Jesse LeMaster - ~~believe~~ <sup>said</sup> to have come to  
Am. before Revolution - approx birth 1720  
probably came to Am about 1735-40.

No proof he wasn't born here. Family  
tradition says 3 bro. Hugh, Jesse & Zacariah  
came to Baltimore, Md.

From my records I believe there are the following groups of La Masters

1. Claude Le maître group came to N.Y. in 1652  
Descendants went to Penn - started iron works  
some use name of De Lemater (Have seen this line, no connection to mine)
2. Abraham Le Maître group came to Maryland before 1668
3. La Masters who came as bodyguards to La Fayette (descendants now living S.C.)
4. Andrew Le Maître - father came from Germany to Pa. before middle 1700's - Had 2 sons - one was Andrew other (Jacob II ?). Andrew's son started city of Lemasters, Pa. Andrew b. on 2/26/1750 (I have this line - no connection to mine)
5. A group came to Ohio - middle 1800's or later (Have part of this group)
6. A group descended from a La Master who married an Indian princess
7. Jesse, Hugh + Zechariah La Master - 3 bro who came to Baltimore (by way of Penn. ?)  
This is my line. I have had letters from several La Masters who mention 3 bro. but no one has had their names, unless I do.



letter no 3

May 30, 1957

Dear Virginia,

I was very pleased to receive your data but am sorry I cannot connect into your family. However I do have a relative of yours to send. Maurice LaMaster 8437 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, Kansas. He is a descendent of Alexander E LaMaster b. 1-18-1812. Alexander E - son of James + Sarah Reed LaMaster. James + your, Abraham (11-21-1792) were brothers. Mrs. Maurice LaMaster sent me their line from Alex E. to the present. If you are interested in "branching out" I'm sure she will send it to you. If she doesn't and you want it, I will. I don't type so won't enclose it this time as it takes so long to write it in long hand.

Also the Grace Mahen in your material, now lives at 4165. Washington Neosho, Missouri. She has established a D. A. R. line for your James LaMaster. I am enclosing two records from



Washington D. C. that I believe is your James. I also have some data from Vernon Lee Master, 4948 Marilyn Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah who said he has a record of a James L. Emaster, <sup>born about 1763.</sup> wife Mary Irwin - ~~sons~~ children. James, Ann, Hugh and Abraham. This ties in with your James and gives his wife's last name. I sent this to Miss Mahin but she thought the birth date (1763) too young for a Rev. War soldier. However the record says James entered in 7<sup>th</sup> Regt + Drum + if he entered in 1776 would have been 13 which isn't too young for a drummer. I believe Miss Mahin has found a lot of material since 1935 so suggest you write her, as I do not have all her data. I do know she has found some graves of your La Master group in Kentucky.

If we are related I believe we will have to go back to the 3 brothers Jesse, Hugh and Zacariah. Jesse is my line (pamphlet page 5) and from

2) the names of our lines, we must be related as they are so similar. Also Hugh La Master (Grace Mahan's line) went to Scott Co. Ind & was married there to his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife. I think he might have gone to visit relatives. All of my group were in Scott Co. They came there between 1805 & 1820 from Virginia - Isn't it a mixed up mess?

I am enclosing La Master coat of arms. I'm not an artist but you can get the idea. I wrote to the studio about the stars, but they said 6 points instead of 8. The shaded part is silver & the red a bright cardinal red. It is shaded on my copy and really very pretty. I bought it for a Christmas present from my husband to me (you know women!)

I am making a small 8 page pamphlet for this years reunion - The coat of arms, description, 4 page story of La Master - Setler fortune and a list of La Masters working on their lines. Will send you a copy when I get



it "ditto-ed" The La Master fortune is through  
the Sitty family.

There is a lady in Ky. working  
on La Masters - Mrs. Thomas Riley, 128  
Kennedy Rd - Fort Wright - Covington, Ky  
Your cousin Orem might be close  
enough to contact her. I have sent  
her all my data.

There is also a group in Point  
Pleasant, West Va. who are descended  
from a Rev. War. Scout - Thomas La Master.  
I have lots of data and will send it  
to you, if you are interested in  
copying it. If I could type I would  
copy it. In 1790 there were only 20  
La Master families in the censuses.  
Maryland, Va, Mass, Pa, + South Carolina

Thanks very much for the invitation  
to visit you if I am ever in Akron.  
My grandfather (my Dad's father) lives there  
He is 97 years old. My mother and Dad  
visit him ever so often.

Let me know if you want  
any of the other La Master families



3) I have and I'll send them for your sister-in-law to type. All I ask is that you return my original copy. I keep gathering all I can find hoping to hear from a relative. The La Master living at 2667 E. Benton, Akron is supposed to have talked about La Master fortune so I think he is my relative, but no answer from him. Mrs Harold La Master's husband (deceased) 115 N. Arlington Ave is a descendent of Isaac (pamphlet page 7 chud no 4) Isaac was a brother of my great grandfather Richard Rankin La Master. I might have told you but my mother is Dona (b Oct 5, 1897) pamphlet page 13

All of my La Masters were Baptists and Democrats. They were dark, tall and slender, but the women seem to gain weight with age. They also seem to have the trait of large ears. Of course the ones I know & knew would have traits of other families by marriage so it is hard to tell if these are La Master traits. However, several

have written that their La Master family have large ears.

There is supposed to be a La Master who lives near Spartanburg, S. C. who has a coat of arms hand set in gold and rubes that was brought from France over 200 years ago. I have tried to contact him but have never been successful.

There is also a town of Lemasters in Penn, but it was founded by a group whose ancestors came from Germany.

Now please excuse all the "ramblings" but I have tried to jot down interesting things I have found. (There is also a group of Leamasters, Leemasters who are Mormons.) This letter is so mixed up for an ex school teacher, I would have had a fit if one of my students had written it. I have found so many things, I included them as I remembered them.

You certainly have some talented people in your group and a family <sup>of which</sup> to be proud. There seems



④ to be no doubt we are descended from French royalty. I have also heard there were colored Le masters, but it would only show our families owned slaves who, when freed, took their master's name.

I must close and sketch coat of arms so I can get this in the mail. Please feel free to write me any questions you have and I will answer them if I can.

Thanks again for your data.

Best wishes,  
Margaret H.

P.S. I have few  
LaMaster traits  
I'm 5' tall  
weigh 118 -  
small ears.  
dark hair  
dark complexion

(over)

There is a book called "Ohio Valley Genealogy" by Charles Hanna that is said to have quite a few La Masters in it. He also wrote several other histories of Ohio Valley. A Miss Verna D Hanna also wrote an account of La Masters. Both lived in Kentucky and died several years ago. I have never been able to find any of their books in the Peoria or Springfield libraries. Perhaps they are in Akron library.

I thank you for your

Best wishes,

H. T. ...

P. O. ...  
...  
...  
...  
...  
...  
...

(over)



Letter no 4

June 8

Dear Virginia,

Was glad to hear you enjoyed  
 Coat of arms. If you could see the one  
 I had made, you would think my  
 Copy was a poor job of coloring. This  
 one is outlined in a ~~thin~~ hair line of  
 black around each tiny detail, stars  
 are gold (not yellow as I had), green is dark green  
 red is Cardinal, blue is a medium blue and  
 flowers <sup>on shield</sup> is white. Shield, helmet etc is silver  
 with shades of a darker silver in it. Motto  
 + Le maistre letters are black. Hope this  
 helps with your water colors. The outline is  
 exact as I held mine up to the window  
 to trace it.

About the Coat of Arms in S. C.  
 This was written by Darrell Lemaster Aug 12,  
 1956. His address at that time was Chicago  
 Heights. He travels and I do not have his  
 present address. Quote "There is a large  
 number of families in S. C. by the Lemaster  
 name & all are distant relatives of each  
 other. Of course there are family groups too.  
 There is one old fellow near Spartanburg

who owns a furniture store in a little town north of there that has a family crest of gold & hand set. Is supposed to have come from the old country and is proclaimed to be more than two centuries old. In the next few years I am going to go down there again and take a look". Darrell was at the reunion last year and said it had rubies on it for a red chevron. There is a J. T. LeMaster 399 Woodside Lane, Spartanburg, S.C. who said "5 years ago ~~he~~ I could have gotten a record 5 generations back. The man has died & I can't get the record"

His people first came from France as a body guard for La Fayette.

Margaret Crem Riley of Covington Ky is descended from Nancy Lemaster (d. 1817) Nancy married David Adams (1785 d. 1856) I have lots of Ky Lemaster data but cannot connect them.

This week I connected a group in Zanesville, Ohio with some relatives and maybe back to the group of Lemasters who came from



3) Germany (probably French Huguenot who fled to Germany) to Penn. before 1750. I have the story of part of this group.

I am enclosing a photocopy concerning James Lemaster who was in Rev. & is probably yours, as far as I have been able to find there was only 1 James in Rev. You can have it photocopied & then return my copy. I also have 7 pages of his muster roll if you want to have it photocopied I'll send it.

There is also a Mrs Lucy Smith, New Castle, Ky. who is supposed to know some Lamaster history. Perhaps Orem La Master might contact her sometime

If you don't hear from your relatives in Overland Park, Kansas let me know and I'll send their line. When your sester in-law. is ready to type drop me a card and I'll send material. I have about 100 pages of material, which isn't my line. You may not want it all.

The following all served in Rev. from Va. - John, Benjamin, Hugh, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, George, James & Thomas Lemaster. Quite a group by the same



name.

The Maryland Hist. Soc. in Baltimore has a lot of information. Perhaps Oren's daughter can connect our families. Since both our groups went from Md. to Va my guess is that your James is a son of one of Jesse's (my 4th gt. grandfather) sons, if we connect, or a son of Jesse's brothers. Although there were other groups of Lemasters in Baltimore I have quite a few notes from 1668 to - 1820 on Baltimore Lemaster's.

I would appreciate if you would send me the names + addresses of the one La Master + 2 Lee Masters in the telephone directory. I'll send the Lee Masters on to one in Salt Lake City, who spells his name same way. Also any Gladden, Kemberlin or Whirlatch

My mother said she would call you if they come to Akron to see my grandfather. He came to this country in 1881. I have quite a lot of history on the Nelsons, but in Sweden the children take the father's first name, add "son" + it becomes their last name. My grandfather is John Nelson