

Elder John's baptismal name was spelled Johannes Cuntz and he had no middle name. He was born March 26, 1739 and baptized April 29, 1739 and the sponsors were Casper Stoever and Jacob Neuschwanger and Maria Baumann. This is from the "Baptismal Records of Rev. John Casper Stoever". The book [The Ancestry and Descendants of John Casper Stover by Stiver and Donaldson](#) supports this information. Elder John spelled his name Kuntz in Pennsylvania when he was married in 1738. This is from the "1,429 Marriage Records of Rev. John Casper Stoever, Jr. Johannes Kuntz on June 25, 1738 married Stoever, Anna Elizabeth Catherine in Earltown, Pennsylvania now called New Holland, Pennsylvania. This is also the location of John Casper Stover's house built in 1740.

**John Casper Stoever Log House** is a historic home located at New Holland, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. It was built about 1740, and is a 1 1/2-story, 36 feet 6 inches by 22 feet, log dwelling. It has corner posts, to which the logs are attached with mortise and tenon joints. It had a gable roof with dormers and sat on a stone foundation. The log structure was covered with asbestos shingles over novelty siding. A one-story, rear addition was built in the 1880s and a glass entryway in the 1920s. Its builder, Rev. John Casper Stoever, Jr. (1707–1779), was a prominent figure in the development of the Lutheran church. The house is no longer located at 200 W. Main St., and appears to have been moved about 30 feet south and turned 90 degrees. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987. (Source: Wikipedia)

## **Connection between the Rev. John Casper Stoever and Elder John Koontz**

### ***Page CO. News & Courier Heritage and Heraldry***

The first spiritual inspiration among the early congregations of Lutherans in Page Valley probably came from the Rev. John Casper Stoever, Sr. Born Jan. 13, 1684 or 1685 in Frankenburg, Hesse, Germany, Stoever was the son of Deitrich and Magdalena Eberwein Stoever. By the time Stoever was nearly 35-years-old in 1720, he moved to Annweiler in the Hardt Mountains in Bavaria.

[Accepting a call to be minister at the Germanna Colony of Virginia, John Casper Stoever, Sr., John Casper Stoever, Jr., and Elizabeth Catherine Stoever arrived in Philadelphia on Sept. 11, 1728, on the ship \*James Goodwill\*. The Ship "James Goodwill" Rotterdam, Netherlands via Deal, England to Philadelphia 11 September 1728 had David Crocket, Master. From Rotterdam, last from Deal. Sailed on 15 June 1728 and landed in Philadelphia, PA., on 11 Sept. 1728, with around ninety Palatine families aboard. Soon after arriving in Pennsylvania, the Rev. Christian Schultz ordained both John Casper Stover, Sr. and his son, John Casper Stoever, Jr., on April 8, 1733. The Elder Stoever became the first pastor of the Hebron Lutheran Church, founded by the first Germanna colonists in 1717 and the first permanent Lutheran Church in the United States. John Casper Stoever, Sr. became the church's first ordained minister of the Hebron Lutheran Church in 1733. \(PROVEN\)](#) The roots of Elder John

Koontz were also deeply entwined in the history of the Germanna Colony and early German-American religion. The first generation born in Virginia, on March 26, 1739, Elder Koontz's father, John Cuntz, had arrived in Philadelphia on Nov. 30, 1730, aboard the *Joyce*. Elder John Koontz's mother, Elizabeth Catherine Stoever, was the daughter of the Rev. John Casper Stoever, Sr. (Source: Page News and Courier and the Stover book supports this)

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From the Reference "Pennsylvania German Pioneers" I have obtained the actual signature of Johannes Cuntz, Sr., had arrived in Philadelphia on Nov. 30, 1730, aboard the *Joyce*. His signature was Johannes Cuntz (PROVEN)

The John Cuntz, Sr., had arrived in Philadelphia on Nov. 30, 1730, aboard the *Joyce*. Three lists are given; list "A" (name crossed out) Johannes Coones but it should read John Hall (name crossed out) who was the person on the list before Johannes Coones. The "A" lists were ship manifests, usually compiled before the ship left Europe. Looking at the other two lists John Hall is missing so he was the one that didn't make the trip. Johannes Cuntz is listed as 24 years old or born in 1706. The fact that the name is the same and his age matches his date of birth it is thought he is the son of Joseph Cuntz and that B.C. Holtzclaw's theory that John was left out of his father will because John had returned to Europe is more likely. I have found the signature of Johannes Cuntz on the ship list. John came in at the port of Philadelphia and goes to Germanna where his father was living and where he meets his wife Elizabeth Catherine Stoever is more evidence that he was the son of Jost Cuntz that died in 1731. Jost Cuntz will was made October 18, 1730 and probated February 10, 1730 (i.e., 1731) Stafford County Will Book 1729-1748, on page 22.

It is known that Elizabeth Catherine Stoever, Rev. John Casper Stoever, Sr. daughter, was with her father in Germanna in 1733. It is possible that John Cuntz, Sr. and Elizabeth Catherine Stoever met at the Hebron Lutheran Church in Germanna between 1733 and their marriage in 1738. (Not Proven) Elizabeth Catherine Stoever father and two laymen had gone to Europe seeking funds for the Hebron Lutheran Church. They obtained a letter of recommendation from Governor William Gooch on September 18, 1734, and soon thereafter departed. Elizabeth Catherine Stoever father died on the return voyage in 1738.

Anna Elizabeth Catharina Stover married Johannes Cuntz on June 25, 1738 and Elder John Koontz was born March 26, 1739 about 9 months later. After their marriage they moved to, Opequon, Frederick County, Virginia which is only four- or five-miles SSW of Winchester, VA. Johannes bought 195 acres of land from John Branson on June 23, 1739. (Orange Co D.B. 3, p.191. the land is now in Frederick Country, VA. (PROVEN)

Johannes Cuntz had only two children Elder John Kuntz who was born March 26, 1739 and George Kuntz born in 1741. After only six years John sold his 195 acres to Lewis Stephens on August 5, 1745 and his wife then relinquishes her dowry on August 6, 1745. (Frederick Co. deed book 1, pp227 and 229) found the part about his wife relinquishing her dower on August 6, 1745. This meant she had to sign giving her approval to the land sale.

Some family histories have Elizabeth Catharina Stover Koontz dying and John marrying Elizabeth Armentrout but this isn't true. The Ancestry and Descendants of John Casper Stover by Stiver and Donaldson has Elizabeth Catharina Stover Koontz dying in 1750 in PA. In 1745 John would have been age 39 years and his wife about 35 years. The Germanna foundation also supports the idea that Elder John's father died in 1745 as listed in their genealogical records. Elder John would have been only 6 and George about 4 years old. They would have remembered little about their father. I did a great deal of research on Elder John Koontz and he never said anything about his father which I thought strange at the time. Only one county record has been found where Elder John Koontz refers to himself as Jr. and his father as Sr. It is strange that the land transaction was done before his death (Proven). John may have had debilitating health and wanted to provide for his wife. I found in the year 1745 Winchester was one of the main trading locations in Virginia and with John living within about 6 miles of Winchester he may have been exposed to Tuberculosis. It is thought Anna Elizabeth Catharina Stover Koontz returned to John Casper Stover, Jr., her brother, in PA to rear her children as he had the means and was her closest relative (Not Proven). "When John Casper Stover, Jr., was six years of age he learned to read German perfectly in four weeks under his father's direction. After this he also commenced to study Latin under his father. Subsequently he received private instruction in Latin and Greek from four pastors successively named H. Nicolaus Muentz, H. Samuel Bratschisch, H. Valentine Kraft and H. Antonius Pfaffman, and later in the languages named, as also in Hebrew and French, and likewise in theology from H. Knabel and finally from H. Special (Superintendent) Adolph Ruehfeld at Brumath, three hours (twelve miles), from Strassburg." John Casper Stover, Jr., could read 4 languages and in the 18 century he was the noted Lutheran Minister in PA. John Casper Stover, Jr., had a family of 11 children. The Ancestry and Descendants of John Casper Stover by Stiver and Donaldson has Elizabeth Catharina Stover Koontz dying in 1750 in PA. (Proven)

Elder John could speak both German and English and was well educated and if living with the John Casper Stover, Jr. family would have received a great religious education. Elder John was very successful in the Shenandoah Valley as a Baptist Preacher converting Mennonites to Baptists as he could speak both German and English. It is believed the prominent Stover family is where he received an excellent education along with a strong Lutheran religious background (Not Proven).

- Elder Koontz also had a great calling for religion in Virginia. While originally Lutheran, Koontz was highly influenced by the Baptist revival that spread like wildfire throughout Virginia in the latter half of the 18th century. While living near Front Royal and attending one of these revivals, Koontz was so moved that he traveled to Fauquier County for baptism in December of 1768.

Elder John's brother George moved to the Shenandoah Valley around May of 1768 as George bought land from Henry Conrad in May of 1768. In November of 1770 Elder John Kuntz came to the Shenandoah Valley to visit his brother George. This information comes

from the Mill Creek Church records. Proven Shortly after he moved to the Shenandoah Valley, he spelled his name Countz as seen in the church records. Also, there was another John living in what is now Page County in August 1765 as John Bumgarner conveyed to a John Counts, both of Frederick County, Virginia, 270 acres more or less on the west side of Hawksbill Creek which is now in Page County. When Elder John Counts arrived, his name became Countz in the church records. The last record of this other John Counts was August 22, 1789 as he conveyed 248 acres to Sinnet Young of the 270 acres he bought from John Bumgarner in 1765. This John moved to Russell County, Virginia around 1790 (Not of my lineage). Elder John Countz used this spelling in the church records until July 1813 when he started spelling his name as Koontz. He lived and preached and reared a family of four in what became Page County and died in the Valley on April 25, 1832. His children were Jacob born in 1764 who married Barbara Beaver, John Koontz born 1765 who married Amelia Powell, Elizabeth Koontz born between 1767 and 1770 married Henry Pence, and Isaac Newton Koontz born February 14, 1777 married Susannah Kiplinger. Proven

Neither Elder John or his children ever went to Russell County or Southwest Virginia. These are two different families. In October of 2006 Lowell Koontz took a 37 marker Y-DNA test and a little later a Tim Counts of Russell County took a 37 marker Y- DNA test and upon receiving the results agreed that there were 17 marker differences in a 37 marker Y-DNA test. There were four different Philip Koontzes in the Shenandoah Valley living during the same time. These are discussed in my book on page 24. One of these Phillips was born between 1770 and 1775 and was the son of John Counts senior and his wife Mary Magdeline who moved to Russell County. This Philip stayed behind in Shenandoah County and is listed in the tithables of Shenandoah County first in the year 1789. The Shenandoah County census of 1810 listed his family with two males age 10 to 16, one male 16 to 26, and one male 26 to 45, one female under the age of 10, two females 16 to 26. The male age 16 to 26 was Jacob born 1792 to 1794 who married Maria Dirting, the male age 26 to 45 was Philip born estimated 1771. Elizabeth Koontz was one of the two females age 16 to 26. This Philip died 1842/43 and his will was probated January 23, 1843 in Page County Virginia. This Philip married Anna Kiser sic Keyser and is the son of the John Counts of Russell County.

This John Counts of Russell County was born in 1722 and cannot be the son of John Kuntz (b.1706) as he was married in 1738. There is another book written called Some Descendants of John Counts of Glade Hollow Southwest Virginia 1722-1977 written by Sutherland. Because the Russell County Counts cannot find the father of their John they want to connect to our lineage. ( Not my lineage)

If you're interested in knowing the descendants of Elder John Koontz it is written in my book The History of the Descendants of John Koontz. I spent more than five years of work researching this book and lived in the same area that Elder John Koontz lived. I can assure you my work is correct and the book is well documented.

Elder John Koontz began teaching the gospel according to the Baptist faith in the area of Mill Creek. Preaching in both German and English, Koontz's sermons were moving and eloquent enough to convert many, including Martin Kauffman and many of his Mennonite flock. Reportedly, his

efforts to convert so many subjected Koontz on more than one occasion to beatings by "ruffians" of the Massanutten neighborhood. Elder John Koontz reportedly preached to his Massanutten flock at Mill Creek Church from 1772 until 1824.

Just across from the Shenandoah River from Alma, Virginia on the north side of 340 is located the old home place of Elder John Koontz. Elder John bought this house and property of 112 A. on August 27, 1814 from David and Margaret Huffman. (Ref. 215 Book "V", p. 303) that John willed to his child. (Ref. 211 Book "A", pp. 26-27) His was latter deeded to his son, Isaac Koontz then to Andrew Jackson Shuler. This house was built around 1790 by Daniel Huffman (b. 1767 d. 1833) Daniel father was George Huffman (b. April-10-1739 d. Aug-7-1815) and George's father was Johannes Hofmann who was a member of the Germanna group.

Elder Koontz died on April 25, 1832. Buried in the Shuler-Koontz cemetery within sight of his home near Alma, Koontz's stone was removed in later years to the Seekford cemetery. The old homeplace of Elder Koontz, better known as the Shuler-Koontz homestead, deteriorated significantly in this century and collapsed in the 1960s.

Was Elder John Koontz' grandfather Jost or Joseph Cuntz the 1714 immigrant to Germanna?

Cons-

1. Jost or Joseph Cuntz didn't list Johannes Cuntz born in 1706 in his will.

Pros-

1. Johannes Coones on the Joyce ship that arrived in Philadelphia in November 1730 lists Johannes' age as 24 years thus he was born in 1706 the same year Jost or Joseph Cuntz' son.
2. Jost or Joseph Cuntz arrived to America in 1714 with his son Johannes Cuntz who was born in April 1706 in Niederndorf, Germany. It is certain that Joseph Cuntz had a son.
3. The strong connection of Elder John Koontz to the Stover family. John Casper Stover, Sr. was the first ordained pastor of the Hebron Lutheran Church in 1733, founded by the first Germanna colonists in 1717.
4. Germanna includes Elder John Descendants as descendants of Jost or Joseph Cuntz the 1714 immigrant.
5. B.C. Holtzclaw includes Elder John Koontz as descendants of Jost or Joseph Cuntz the 1714 immigrant.
6. Johannes Cuntz married Anna Elizabeth Catharina Stover the daughter of Rev. John Casper Stoever, Sr. who was became the church's first ordained minister of the Hebron Lutheran Church in 1733. Rev. John Casper Stoever, Sr. daughter Anna Elizabeth Catharina Stover was

living with her father in Germanna. Rev. John Casper Stoever, Sr. died on a return voyage from Europe in 1738 and Anna Elizabeth Catharina Stover marries Johannes Cuntz on June 25, 1738

- Ancestry and genealogical companies say DNA cannot do the genealogy work for you but once the work is done DNA can be used for proving the genealogy.

Larry Coons and three of his relatives have worked more than 15 years and have come up with the lineage shown below. My lineage is on the right. We are 8<sup>th</sup> cousins but have Johannes Cuntze (1640) as a common ancestor when you go back 10 generations. Laurance Earl Coons had a Y-DNA test done before his passing with 37 markers that can be seen in the FamilyTreeDNA kit number xxxxx and I have Y-DNA Results on 111 markers and of Laurance's 37 markers we agree on all but one marker. Also, the one marker in disagreement is in a marker group that is known to change more quickly with time than other markers. In the fall of 2020 Larry Ronald Coons had a 111 Y-DNA test, kit number xxxxxx the cousin of Laurance Earl Coons and of 111 markers we only disagreed on marker DYS-456 by one number and Marker DYS-712 by 2 numbers. The DYS 712 marker is one of the top 3 markers for the fastest mutations. Marker DYS-456 has the 12 fastest mutation rates.

**Larry Coons Work**

**Lowell Koontz Work**

Name	Born	Place	Relation	Name	Born	Place
1 Henchin Johann Cunze	1510	Prussia/Germany	ggg - Grandfather	1 Henchin Johann Cunze	1510	Prussia/Germany
2 Arnold Cuntze	1530	Prussia/Germany	gg - Grandfather	2 Arnold Cuntze	1530	Prussia/Germany
3 Johannes Cuntze	1575	Prussia/Germany	g- Grandfather	3 Johannes Cuntze	1575	Prussia/Germany
4 Gottahardt (Godert) Kuntze	1610	Prussia/Germany	Grandfather	4 Gottahardt (Godert) Kuntze	1610	Prussia/Germany
5 Johannes Cuntze	1640	Prussia/Germany	Father	5 Johannes Cuntze	1640	Prussia/Germany
6 Johannes Cuntze	1671	Prussia/Germany	Brothers	6 Joseph (Jost) Cuntze	1674	Niederndorf
7 Johann Jost Coons	1712	Niederndorf	1st cousins	7 Johannes Cuntze	1706	Niederndorf
8 Frederick Coons	1762	Culpeper, VA	2nd cousins	8 Elder John Koontz	1739	Frederick, VA
9 Martin Coons	1781	Culpeper, VA	3rd cousins	9 Isaac Newton Koontz	1777	Page Co., VA
10 William George Coons	1814	Fayette CO., KY	4th cousins	10 David B. Koontz	1801	Page Co., VA
11 James William Coons	1844	Sangamon Co., IL	5th cousins	11 Philip S. Koontz	1837	Page Co., VA
12 William Ezra Coons	1876	Howe, Nebraska	6th cousins	12 Andrew Jackson Koontz	1876	Page Co., VA
13 Lloyd Lewis Coons	1905	Custer City, Ok.	7th cousins	13 Layton Mayo Koontz	1906	Rockingham CO. VA
14 Larry Coons		Drain, Oregon	8th cousins	14 Lowell Koontz		Rockingham CO, VA

The **DYS456** had the highest diversity (GD = 0.752), while DYS392 locus had the lowest one (GD = 0.185). The light has been focused and directed in this study to establish the basic forensic genetic information, knowledge, data and statistics which might be so ultimately helpful practically in forensic science and criminology and to let evaluate and present the DNA weight evidences in Iraq medico-legal institute and courts of law. The allele frequency represents the incidence of a gene variant in a population. Alleles are variant forms of a gene that are located at the same position, or genetic locus, on a chromosome. An allele frequency is calculated by dividing the number of times the allele of interest is observed in a population by the total number of copies of all the alleles at that particular genetic locus in the population. Allele frequencies can be represented as a decimal, a percentage, or a fraction. In a population, allele frequencies are a reflection of genetic diversity. Changes in allele frequencies over time can indicate that genetic drift is occurring or that new mutations have been introduced into the population.

### yDNA Marker Mutation Rates

**Mutation Rate 209 DYS425 is the lowest 0.00005**

STR Mutation Rates Per Generation				
Sorted By STR ID		Sorted By Mutation Rate		
STR	Mutation Rate	FLUXUS	STR	Mutation Rate
	per Generation	Weight		per Generation
DYS393	0.00070	27	CDYa	0.01877
DYS390	0.00268	7	CDYb	0.01877
DYS19	0.00134	14	DYS712	0.01877
DYS391	0.00209	9	DYS449	0.00939
D385a	0.00171	11	DYS576	0.00939
D385b	0.00375	5	DYS570	0.00939
DYS426	0.00010	179	DYS710	0.00939
DYS388	0.00015	126	DYS650	0.00939
DYS439	0.00469	4	DYS458	0.00626
DYS389i	0.00209	9	DYS534	0.00626
DYS392	0.00075	25	DYS714	0.00626
DYS389b	0.00313	6	DYS504	0.00626
DYS458	0.00626	3	DYS439	0.00469
D459a	0.00034	55	DYS447	0.00469
D459b	0.00110	17	D464c	0.00469
DYS455	0.00008	221	DYS456	0.00469
DYS454	0.00006	300	DYS481	0.00469
DYS447	0.00469	4	DYS549	0.00469
DYS437	0.00110	17	D385b	0.00375
DYS448	0.00209	9	D464d	0.00375
DYS449	0.00939	2	D413a	0.00375
D464a	0.00268	7	DYS557	0.00375

We are definitely 8<sup>th</sup> cousins! Our genealogy has to be correct to be this related by DNA. With a genetic distance of 3 there is a 95 percent of a common ancestor in the past 390 years. Johannes Cuntze born in 1640 is or common ancestor born 380 years ago.

**Time to Most Recent Common Ancestor (TMRCA) in years before present (ybp):**

Genetic Distance	STRs					SNPs	
	37	67	111	500	700	Big Y-500	Big Y-700
0	0-330	0-270	0-150	0-120	0-60	0-420	0-330
1	30-570	30-480	30-150	0-120	0-90	30-660	30-480
2	60-660	30-510	30-330	0-240	0-120	90-840	60-630
3	90-840	60-630	30-390	30-270	0-120	150-1020	90-750
4	150-990	120-750	60-450	30-339	0-150	210-1200	150-900
5	210-1140	150-840	90-540	30-390	30-180	300-1350	210-1020
6	270-1290	210-960	120-600	60-420	30-210	350-1510	270-1140
7	-	240-1080	150-660	60-480	30-240	450-1680	330-1250
8	-	300-1170	180-720	90-510	30-240	540-1840	420-1380
9	-	360-1290	210-780	90-570	30-270	630-2010	480-1500
10	-	-	240-840	90-600	30-270	750-2180	570-1620
11	-	-	270-900	120-660	60-300	840-2310	630-1720

Ranges above are for 95% confidence interval (so 95% likely to be the case, but still 1/20 chance to not be the case)

I had a significant advantage as I grew up in the same area where Elder John had his church. I am 100% certain that I am a descendant of Elder John Koontz. When I published the book in 1979, I was aware that Elder John's father was also John as I have a document where he refers to himself as John Counts, Jr to distinguish him from John his father.

I hired a professional genealogist, Victor Dunn, a "brick wall genealogist", associated with the Virginia State Library who agreed with me that the John Cuntz of 1706 who came on the ship Joyce to America in 1730 was the husband of Anna Elizabeth Catherine Stoever. They were married on June 25, 1738 in Earltown, PA.

I have Y-DNA results to verify some statements made by B.C. Holtzclaw, first on page 95 and second on page 104. On page 95, he refers to Joseph Cuntz the 1714 immigrant and John Jost Cuntze the 1737 immigrant as the nephew and namesake of the 1714 Joseph Cuntz. I called Family Tree DNA and they indicated that there was a 95% likelihood of a family connection within the past 390 years. It is 381 years back to our connecting individual (**Johannes Cuntz b. 1640**).

The only discrepancy in Larry Coon's genealogy not accepted by Germanna is on page 104 of B. C. Holtzclaw's book Ancestry and Descendants of the Nassau-Siegen Immigrants to Virginia 1714-1750. His Martin Coons was the son of Frederick Coons born in 1762. The problem was that Frederick Coons was married twice, first to Ellen Anderson to whom 5 children were born, and secondly to Mary Ann Matthews to whom 8 children were born. The Germanna database has the 8 children from Mary Matthews and Holtzclaw lists the 5 children by Ellen Anderson but expressed skepticism that a man who was married to Matthews at 26 could have been a widower. We have documented evidence that his first wife was Ellen Anderson. Frederick's will in Nov. 1831 leaves property to his daughter Elizabeth and gives the last name of her husband as Johnson. We were able to find Elizabeth's marriage to Johnson and it lists her as the daughter of Ellen Anderson which we feel is verification enough. The information provided on page 104 should have been included and not dismissed.

Larry's family descends from the Jost Cuntze, the immigrant of 1737, and my family descends from the Jost Cuntze of 1714. Holtzclaw states that Larry's John Jost Cuntze is the namesake and nephew of my Jost Cuntze of 1714. See page 95 of Holtzclaw's book.

**In short, the Y-DNA confirms that our genealogy work is correct.**

This information confirms Holtzclaw's theory that the 1706 John Cuntz must have returned to Europe and returned to the America on the ship Joyce in 1730.

Victor Dunn assured me that there wasn't any additional information on the 1706 John Cuntze in VA. The lack of information on him could be explained by his absence in Europe as well as his late marriage date of 1738 when he was 32 year of age and the father omitting him from his will.

Larry's data has been transferred to the Germanna Project and placed in the (1714 -Coons, Cuntz, Koontz) grouping. I have placed our Y-DNA information into Excel for easy viewing. Out of 111 markers one marker DYS-456 was off by one number and the second marker

DYS712 was off by 2 numbers. I found these two alleles mutate faster than any of the other alleles of the 111 alleles a Family Tree DNA tests and they indicated that there was at least a 95% likelihood of a family connection within the past 390 years. It has been 381 years since our connecting individual was born.

Lowell Koontz  
December 2021