

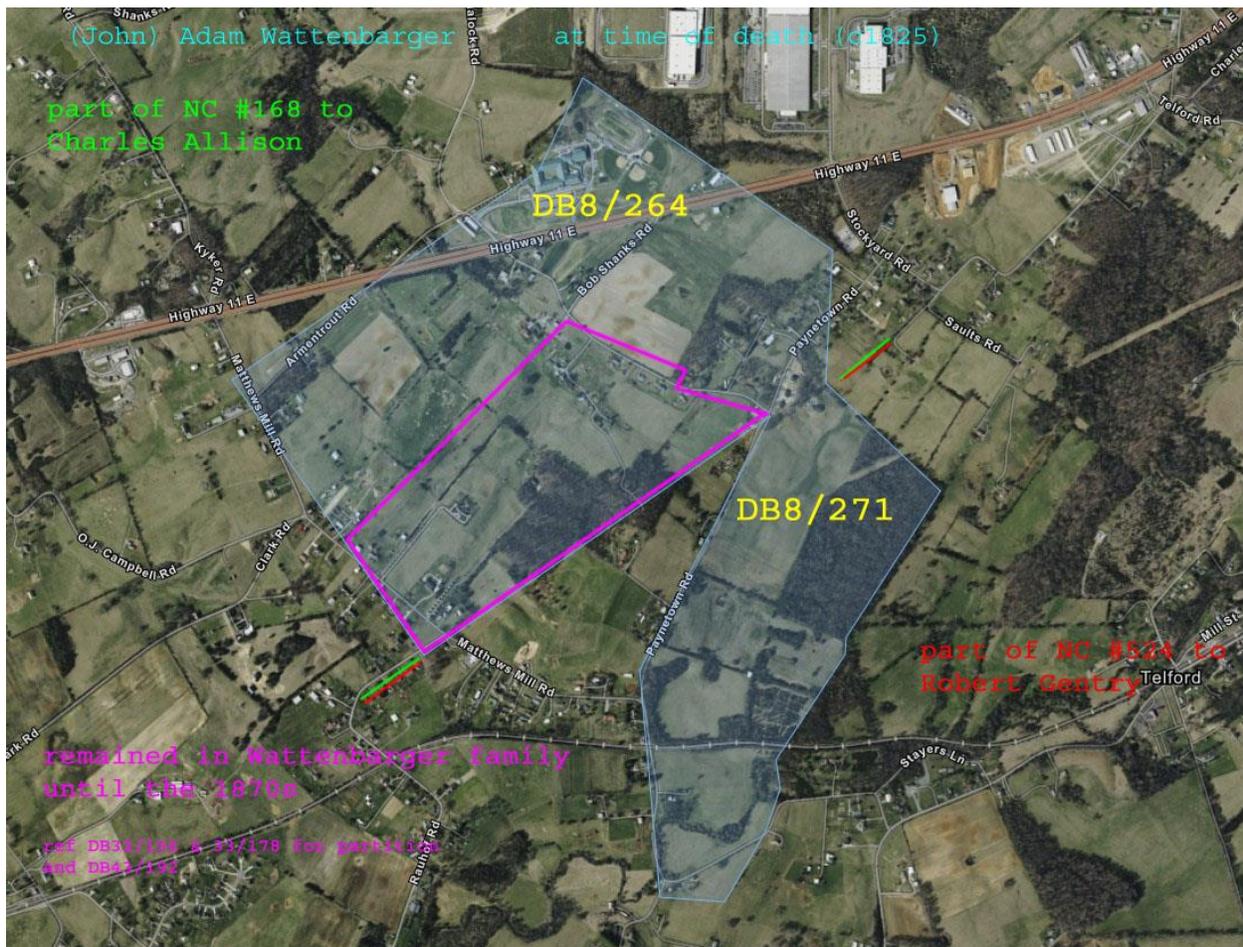
Adam Wattenbarger

Adam Wattenbarger was born 22 Feb 1760 in Berks County, PA. His parents were immigrants from Germany. The surname is an Americanized form of Württemberger, a region in southwestern Germany.

Little is known of Wattenbarger's early years, only that he was listed in Berks County, Pennsylvania in the 1790 census, showing himself (over age 16), 3 males (one over age 16), and one female. He would have been around 30 years of age.

By 1800 he had migrated to Frederick County, Maryland. He was listed as being age 45 and over, his wife, also age 45 and older, 1 daughter and three sons. This census ages both him and his wife by 15 years, instead of ten years, which is not uncommon, but it sheds a little doubt on whether this is the same person.

There are no land records listed until 1802 (April 7) when Hugh Cunningham sold Wattenbarger 161 acres of land "crossing little limestone creek." (Deed Book 8, page 271, 272) Another transaction (Deed Book 8, page 264) shows that John Blair sold Wattenbarger 336 acres of land on a branch of Big Limestone Creek. The two parcels of land adjoined, and a portion of the property remained in the Wattenbarger family until the 1870s.



Adam is consistently mentioned in the tax lists, but not until 1809. Curiously, there are three Adam Wattenbargers listed, all in McAlister's Company (the original list has not survived; information taken from microfilm). The next entry for Wattenbarger is in 1811 when both Adam and Adam Jr., are listed in the tax list, in McAlister's Company.

Adam Wattenbarger	497	0	0	0	0
Willm Wattenbarger	0	0	0	0	0
Adam Wattenbarger Jr	0	0	0	0	0

(1811) The three entries listing Adam Wattenbarger, the father, and his sons, William and Adam. The elder is shown with 497 acres of land.

Wattenbarger Adam Sr	1	320
Wattenbarger William	1	

(1824) Tax list entries for Adam Sr., showing 320 acres, and his son William.

In April 1825, Adam Wattenbarger sued William P. Chester and John Blair in County Court. A later entry (July 1825 session) in the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions Minute book reads, “Adam Wattenbarger vs. William P. Chester & John Blair—the death of the pl^{ff} suggested. It is ordered by the court that the suit be recorded in the name of Frederick Fenceler & Christian Zetty, Sen^r the Executors of the last will and testament of Adam Wattenbarger dec^d.”

His will was written October 15, 1820 and mentions wife Elizabeth, and children William, Adam, Jacob, Peter, Solomon, Michael, Frederick, George, Samuel, Elizabeth, and Sally. His will expresses his desire that his children be educated and reads in part:

“It is my wish that four boys, to wit Michael, Frederick, George & Samuel be sent to school to read write and understand the rule of three and it is my wish that my two daughters Elizabeth & Sarah be sent to school to learn to read and write and for the above mentioned four boys and two girls for their education to be paid out of my estate...”

[The **rule of three** is a historical mathematical method used to solve problems involving proportions by finding an unknown fourth value when three other values are known to be in a proportional relationship.]

Adam signed his will, and Christian Zetty and Frederick Fensler were named executors.

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Minute Book 7 (1824 - 1826) July 1825 session reads, “The last will and testament of Adam Wattenbarger, dec^d was proven in court by the Oaths of John Link, Samuel B. Cunningham & Christian Zetty the subscribing witnesses there to & recorded. Frederick Fenceler & Christian Zetty Senr, executors of the last will and testament of Adam Wattenbarger dec^d gave bond and security and qualified as the law directs.”

There is an estate file in the archives for Adam Wattenbarger, that shows that a public auction was held on Friday the 29th July 1825.

Schedule of a part of the personal property of Adam Wattenberger Senr: Deceased sold by public auction on Friday the 29th July 1825.

<i>Articles sold</i>	<i>By whom bought.</i>	<i>£.</i>	<i>¢.</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
<i>Bloughshire 91. 91.</i>	<i>Andrew Odel -</i>	<i>0 -</i>	<i>06 1/4.</i>	}
<i>2 Iron rings for mauls</i>	<i>Wiley Berger -</i>	<i>0 -</i>	<i>06 1/4.</i>	
<i>2 Chary -</i>	<i>Benjⁿ Herchel -</i>	<i>0 -</i>	<i>06 1/4.</i>	



Adam Wattenbarger is believed to be buried in an unmarked grave in the Old Dutch Meeting House Cemetery on B. Chase Road in Washington County.

Signature of Adam Wattenbarger on his will.

###