

## Johannes Creveling and His Descendants

by Michael and Janet Ann DeLorenzo Gesner

### It's a Small World

In 1970 (pre-genealogy days for the Gesners), Janet and Michael bought their first home, on the outskirts of Washington, NJ (Warren County). They've jokingly called it their starter home even though they are still in it today, forty-six years later. Prior to their purchase, the one-acre property was part of the Bodine farm, a tract of land that was in that family for over 140 years. Previous to the Bodines, the property was owned by the **Creveling family**. This didn't mean anything to the Gesners at the time other than *just* the history of the property. **Samuel Creveling**, lived and died here - his tombstone is on a knoll about 600 feet from the home - a tiny fenced-in cemetery that looked down upon the current Gesner property. He died on March 20, 1827 at the young age of twenty-two with a surviving wife and child.

Today, Samuel is recognized as Janet's 1st cousin, five times removed. The original property is described in the Second Edition of the Creveling Genealogy by Louis G. Creveling, on pages 1002-1004.

Samuel's father, Samuel and uncle **William Creveling** (Janet's 7th Gr-Grandfather!!) bought the property from the Robert Thompson (deceased) estate in 1791. What are the chances that a descendant would end up living on the same property that was once owned by an ancestor so long ago??

The deed mentions "houses" on the property and there is a question whether the present Gesner home could have been one of those "houses." Michael doesn't think so but he does estimate that there were nine additions to the present structure over 150+ years. The house was originally one room, then a loft and further add-ons transformed the original abode into a colonial farmhouse. Janet surmises that the houses mentioned in the 1791 deed were log cabins that were later replaced with the present construction. Another possibility is that the structures mentioned in the deed were catch-all phrases to include any and all buildings on the land.

If only Louis Creveling had known this when he published his last book! But, Janet's **Creveling** line wasn't known to him at the time. After purchasing his book . . . **poor Janet** . . . she wasn't in it! But to be fair to Louis, her Creveling connections were difficult to uncover. But prove them the Gesners did and finally she *is* in this latest edition. She descends from *two* Creveling siblings, **William** (1st born) and **Christiana** (8th born), making her a "double Creveling." In genealogy, "double relations" aren't that unusual. When family descendants live in a given area for over 250 years, you are bound to find cousin marriages. In most cases, the connection might equate to 4th or 5th cousins and who, other than a genealogist, would suspect the relationship? In Janet's case, her double relations were 1st Cousins, once removed. "Oops, she married her cousin" is one of Michael's frequent witticisms when discovering yet another cousin marriage.

According to Michael, this genealogy was fifteen years in the making but early on, the thought of "doing another Creveling book" wasn't a consideration. It was about five years ago when the project made it on the Gesner to-do list. However, this was at a time when there were other

books in the works (The Creveling Genealogy is #9 and #10) but once it became a priority, they got serious. Firstly, they went through the Second Edition, making sure they had every family included in their "third edition." *Note: The Second Edition has much more personal information as well as early documents than this genealogy. The book is in many area libraries. Please check it out.* After thousands of hours of research, the book(s), Part I (Generations One through Ten) and Part II Generations Eleven through Fifteen), are finished. Louis Creveling had said that there were 10,000 Creveling descendants in his Second Edition. Today, the number is 50,000+ and counting in-laws, the total tally of individuals in this updated genealogy is close to 75,000. Copies of the genealogy have been donated and are already on the shelves of the Columbia County Historical and Genealogical Society.

Final editing for the two volumes took about one month. During this time, additional Creveling descendants came to light but who won't be included in this genealogy. When the Gesners say that "this is a work in progress," they really mean it. There is a point when you have to shut down the research and PRINT. Otherwise, the genealogy would *never* be published.

The books are also available at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) where you can view the entire index.