

**THE HISTORY OF THE  
BORNEMAN FAMILY IN  
AMERICA: SINCE THE FIRST  
SETTLERS, 1721 TO 1878**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649461578

The History of the Borneman Family in America: Since the First Settlers, 1721 to 1878 by J. H. Borneman

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**J. H. BORNEMAN**

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❖ IN AMERICA, ❖

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1721 to 1878.



PUBLISHED BY  
J. H. BORNEMAN, BOYERTOWN, PA.

1881.

111.567  
**RECEIVED**  
MAY 9 1901  
WIS. HIST. SOCIETY.

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## PREFACE.

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THIS work was originally designed by Amos Borneman, who devoted a great deal of time and attention to the history of the Borneman family. The death of the author in November, 1879, left the work unfinished and in a troublesome condition to compile. Yet, after so much labor and time having been spent, it seemed rather ungenerous to the memory of the dead to let the object of his life be consigned to oblivion.

After considerable hesitancy and thought on my part, I finally determined to put into shape what had been collected, and get what new material I could, and so present the book to our numerous family.

J. H. BORNEMAN.



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THE HISTORY  
OF THE  
BORNEMAN FAMILY IN AMERICA,

Since the First Settlers, 1721 to 1878.

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IN the spring of 1721, Daniel Borneman, son of Mr. Borneman, who was a soldier, during life, in the Swiss army, left his native home in Switzerland, on the left branch of the river Rhine, came to the nearest seaport, and took passage on an English merchant ship, to be landed at Philadelphia, in the province of Pennsylvania, under the existing emigration laws, viz.: that all persons, male or female, wishing to come to America, and had no means to defray expenses, the captain of the ship had the right to bind them out for two years, at twelve pounds and ten shillings per year, making twenty-five pounds for the passage, and an outfit at the expiration of the term, with certain tools specified in said Emigration Act. All such persons arriving in America were called "redemptioners."

It was customary that every ship should re-

port at the harbor of her country, and pay the duty upon her cargo, as fixed by existing laws. The captain in charge of the vessel failed to comply with the above laws, sailed directly for America, and when he had crossed the ocean, he suggested to land them at Jamestown, Virginia, the climate being milder, and it would be far better for poor people to gain a livelihood. At that time, the right to sell as slaves, both white and black, existed in the province of Virginia, of which the passengers on board were aware. The passengers refused to accept the change. He then steered up the Bay, so that land was seen by evening, but by morning they would be out at sea again. He again renewed his efforts to land them at Virginia. He said he could not make the port of Philadelphia. He went up and down Delaware Bay for about a week, coming up by evening so that land could be seen, and by morning they were at sea again. Now the passengers resolved that they would not be imposed upon, and *threatened* to put the captain in chains if he would not land them at Philadelphia according to agreement; and when he found that he could not prevail upon them, then seeing his danger, he ran up Delaware Bay until it was necessary to signal for a pilot; the pilot came, and the captain ordered him to wreck the vessel on a shoal, because he was frustrated in his plans. He

had intended to sell the passengers in Virginia for slaves. He and his crew intended to become pirates upon American waters. Finally, they came up the Bay until it was but twelve miles wide, and one hundred miles below Philadelphia, and within three miles of the New Jersey side. The vessel was run on a shoal, sprung a leak, and sunk.

The signal of distress was hoisted, and the citizens of New Jersey, seeing it, hastened to their rescue. In the meantime, the captain and pilot took the long boat and ran out to sea. How many were on board, I am unable to say; but by evening they were all brought safely on shore, losing everything they had. They encamped on the shore during the night, and when all was quiet the captain and pilot returned and set the vessel on fire and burned it. What became of the captain is unknown.

The news spread rapidly through the thinly settled province of New Jersey, that a ship with German emigrants had been wrecked one hundred miles from Philadelphia, and had lost everything. When they proceeded up the country, they were met by the good citizens, who brought them provisions and such necessaries of which they were in need, until they had reached Philadelphia. As the captain had failed to land them at Philadelphia, they were all free.