

# **We're All Pennsylvania Dutch**

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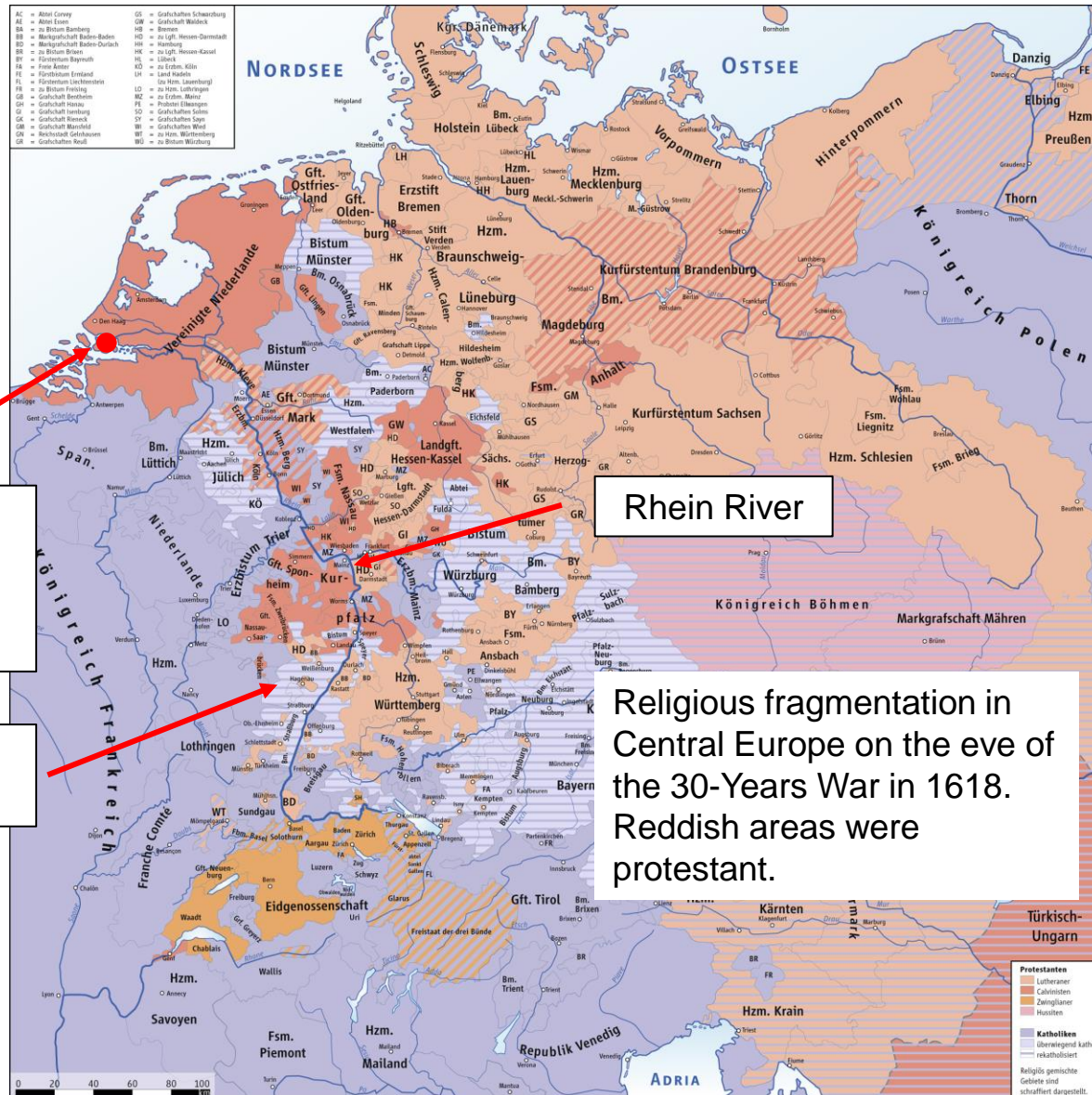
# Our story Starts in 1517



- Martin Luther and the Reformation
- Led to a lot of unhappiness.
- See [The Thirty-Years War](#)



# There was no such country as Germany.



Johannes Kloess  
sails for  
Philadelphia  
1752

Johannes Balliet  
born here in 1746

Rhein River

Religious fragmentation in  
Central Europe on the eve of  
the 30-Years War in 1618.  
Reddish areas were  
protestant.

# Pennsylvania Dutch

- My Favorite Definition:
  - Your German-speaking Protestant ancestors fled down the Rhein River, to the Low Countries, before the War of 1812.
  - Then emigrated to Pennsylvania.
- There are two kinds:
  - Plain Dutch (Anabaptists)
    - Mennonites
    - Amish
    - Brethren
  - Fancy Dutch
    - Lutherans
    - German Reformed, E.U.B., Moravian, Etc.
- See [Wikipedia](#)

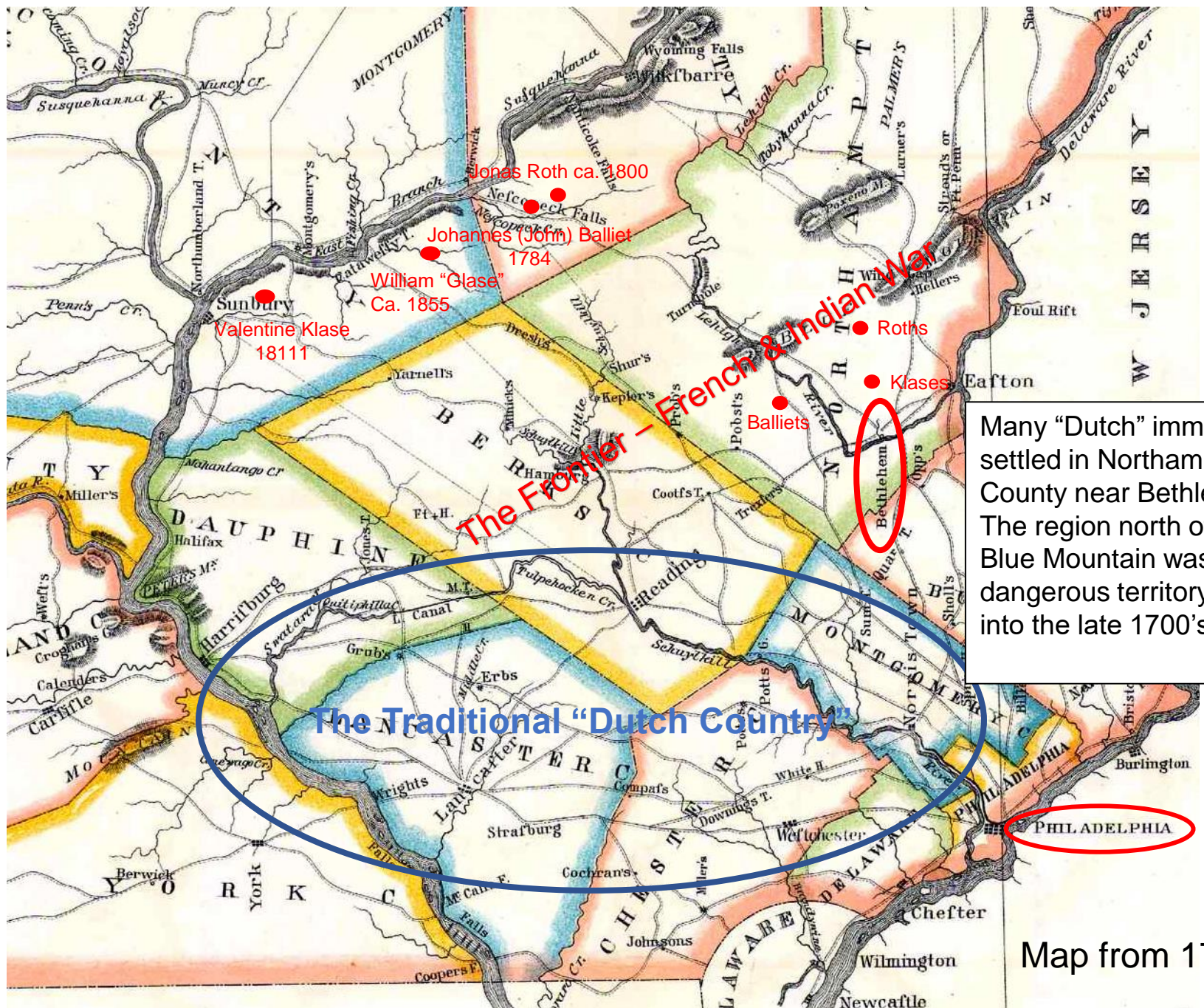
# Unrest in Colonial Pa.

- The French and Indian War (1754–1763)
- Yankee Pennamite Wars
  - First Pennamite War (1769–1770), the Second Pennamite War (1774), and the Third Pennamite War (1784), in which the Wyoming Valley along the North Branch of the Susquehanna River was disputed between settlers from Connecticut (Yankees) and Pennsylvania (Pennamites).[1]
- American Revolutionary War (April 19, 1775 – September 3, 1783)
- The Sugarloaf massacre was a skirmish that occurred on September 11, 1780, in the U.S. state of Pennsylvania when a number of Natives and a handful of loyalists attacked a small detachment of militia from Northampton County.[2] According to pension files and witness depositions, the militia detachment was led by Lieutenants John Moyer and John Fish of Captain Johannes Van Etten's company of volunteers.[1]
  - Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Balliet, reported that ten men were buried
  - [Webpage](#)

# Movement North

- Johannes (John) Balliet
  - Settled Butler Twp. Luzern Cty. (Little Nescopeck Creek) -1784
- Valentine Klase: Purchased 950 acres at Snyderstown – 1811
- Johan Peter Roth: Appears in Sugarloaf in 1830
  - Buried at St. John's
- Conrad Foose settles North Union Township ≈1800,
  - Came from Reading area
  - Land grant for military service?
  - Originally tried to farm at Shepton
  - Too many black rocks.





Many “Dutch” immigrants settled in Northampton County near Bethlehem. The region north of the Blue Mountain was dangerous territory, even into the late 1700’s.

Map from 1791

# Our Culture Faded Away

- We're talking about northeastern Pennsylvania, not the traditional Dutch Country.
- Following the Civil War there was a large influx of people of diverse ethnic background, as the mining and railroad industries expanded.
- The Coal Region became a true melting pot.
- For instance:
  - We listened to Polka music on the radio.
  - My mother learned to make proper spaghetti sauce from her Italian neighbors.
- I never heard German except for an occasional curse.
- My family moved to Lancaster County in the 1950's. They'd stopped teaching German in the high schools there in about 1918, so nobody would think they were Huns.
- However, most of us remained Lutheran.



# An Exception

- I remember bumping my head. My great-uncle, Harry Kishbaugh, rubbed it and chanted the following:



**Heiliger Heiliger Hinkle Dreck**

**Bis Morgen frei und alles weg**

- Translation: Holy Holy Chicken Shit – Tomorrow you'll be all right.
- This may be an example of Pow-wow (folk magic). [See Wikipedia](#)
- A friend of mine offered to use that as prayer following my wedding to Nora, when the pastor was late in arriving for the reception. Fortunately Pastor Kraft showed up, as many of my folks would have understood, and the Nora's Pollocks would have been confused.

# Pronunciation of the Names

- Klasse - Originally Kloess (Klöss)
  - Rhymes with “face”
  - In the Pa. Dutch Dialect the “oe” is pronounced like the A in make.
    - Oehme’s Bakery in Lititz, Pa. – They said “Ämy”
    - Schoenersville (near Allentown) “Shānersville”
    - John Boehner – The politician
    - And, Ella Fitzgerald sang *Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen*
  - By 1773 they grew weary of being called “Close” or “Klöss”
  - Adopted long-A and silent-E from the “English”
- Roth
  - The Luzern County clan all say Rōth.
  - The people in the Dutch Country all say Rōth.
- Balliet
  - Many Pa. Dutch had French surnames.
  - In the aftermath of the French and Indian War they did not want to be mistaken for the enemy.
  - So they say Bal-yet
  - Other examples: Le Beaux became Lebo, etc.

# Reference Links

- <http://noel.mcn.org/Westmoreland/MigrationTrails.htm>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennsylvania\\_Dutch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennsylvania_Dutch)
- <http://www.pa-roots.org/data/read.php?495,325599> (John Balliet)
- [Sugarloaf Massacre](#)