

time, however, views changed and men were pleased to believe they were better for the virtues of parents. Then it came to be conventionally agreed that a pedigree worthy of mention must be traceable through a line of ancestors, each being named with his relative position and connection in the line clearly designated. Therefore, the value of a pedigree is commensurate with the length of the period during which it can be traced.

As early as 1683, William Penn invited Mennonites in Holland, Germany, and elsewhere to settle in the new country, and offered to sell them land in his province. Numbers accepted the invitation, and, to escape persecutions they suffered from religious intolerance at home, became valuable citizens of the English colonies. Among the early Mennonite settlers in Germantown were many weavers. The Friends and the Mennonites were peaceable neighbors; both sects conscientiously believing that war and bearing arms under any circumstances are repugnant to their sense of religious duty.

These immigrants no doubt reported to their kinsmen and friends in Europe the advantages of living in America in a manner to induce many to follow them.

Caspar, the eldest son of Hans Caspar, dissatisfied with the aspect of the probable opportunities to increase his means of livelihood in Germany, started, as soon his age authorized him legally to act independently of his father, to seek better chances of happiness and fortune in the new world. He arrived in Philadelphia September 16, 1717. His Jäger rifle, which he brought with him, is still an heirloom in the family.

When Caspar Wüster settled in Philadelphia the inhabitants were subjects of George I., King of England, and were English in their modes of thinking, their political affiliations and language. According to a family tradition his name was anglicized by his American associates. As he spelled it aloud as he had done in his native land, they substituted in place of the German *ü*, marked by an *umlaut*, the English *i*, which letter in sound was supposed to approximate nearest to his pronunciation of it; and for like reason, the German *e* was superseded by the English broad *a*, and so they wrote his name Caspar Wistar; and concordantly he signed his oath of allegiance to King George I., in 1721.

In the first years of his residence in Philadelphia he carried on the business of button-maker, and was successful. The Colonial Assembly enacted a law "for the better enabling Caspar Wistar and John