



Photo added by Charlie Morgan

## Cornelues Johannes Messler

<b>BIRTH</b>	1 Dec 1725 Franklin Township, Somerset County, New Jersey, USA
<b>DEATH</b>	25 May 1806 (aged 80) Middlebush, Somerset County, New Jersey, USA
<b>BURIAL</b>	First Reformed Church Cemetery New Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey, USA
<b>PLOT</b>	274
<b>MEMORIAL ID</b>	65784764 · <a href="#">View Source</a>

Cornelius Messler was the son of Johannes (John) Abraham Metselaer (1694–1761) and Cathryna/Tryntje Neefies (Nevius) (1693–1761).

The spelling of his first and last names in this memorial reflect the spelling in the grave stone transcription records of The First Reformed Church. It is not clear why his first name is spelled "Cornelues" on the grave stone instead of "Cornelius." The Metselaer surname spelling of his father seems to have changed to Messler sometime between the time of his birth and the time of his death.

He was born December 1, 1725 and was baptized on December 26, 1725 (with his twin sister, Sarah Messler who married Jacobus (Jacob) Stryker).

He married first Lammetie/Laemmetje (Lena) Simonson. She was born May 13, 1733, Jamaica, daughter off Jan Jans Simonson/Van Arsdalen and Lena Gerrits Dorland. She died in August 17, 1759. It has been speculated that she died perhaps from complications of child birth when her son Cornelius was born but Cornelius having been born February 9, 1759 suggests that the speculation may be misplaced.

Lena's grandson, the Rev. Dr. Abraham Messler, described her as being a neat, prim little old lady, with an air of town about her, pleasant, quiet, affable and easily approached. All her relations

honored her, because they thought she was too good and too kind to merit any other treatment. She exemplified the Dutch Colonial lady of the olden time. Her piety was eminent and intelligent.

He purchased a farm from his father in 1753 comprising one hundred and three acres that was located on the east side of the road leading from Somerville to Basking Ridge in the Washington Valley. The farm was adjacent to property owned by Robert Bolmer. He may have resided there for only a year or two or perhaps not at all.

He purchased a farm on the Millstone River previously owned by Peter Van Der Veer, located about a mile and a half above Griggstown, after his father passed away. He lived there until after his first wife Lena's death.

He was still living there in August, 1767 when he and his brother-in-law, Garret Dorlandt gave a bond to Elizabeth Gorlet of Amboy, New Jersey.

After his first wife died and he had resided near Rocky Hill for several years, he agreed with his brother-in-law, Abraham Simonson, to divide five hundred acres of land between the two of them. That land was situated between the Lamington and Rockaway rivers, in the Township of Readington, Hunterdon County. Another fifty acres was added to the west side of the property through a purchase from a Mr. Bergen.

Cornelius regularly attended the First Reformed Dutch Church of Somerville during that time, in and around 1762.

There is a story that he had a two-horse chaise and that he was a fast driver. The story goes that it rattled so loudly that it was easy to hear it for some distance and even up to a mile. The noise alerted the children and servants soon enough that they were able to make sure the property was presentable by the time he arrived.

The farm ultimately was transferred to his son Cornelius who lived there until he died in November, 1843.

He married second about 1760 Marya (Maria) Gerret Dorlandt (Dorland) of Sourland, New Jersey, member of the Reformed Dutch Church of North Branch. She was born November 28,

1738, in Sourland, Somerset County, and died March 8, 1777.

He married third Ariantje Van Arsdalen, also of Sourland. She is reputed to have been an example of propriety and industry. It is said that she was generally engaged in knitting when household cares did not occupy her attention, with her Bible open in front of her. Mornings, when the family came to breakfast, her open bible always rested on her lap, implying that she had been reading it. She was polite and rather formal in her address, intelligent, especially on religious subjects, talkative and preferring to speak the Dutch language, but perfectly fluent in English. Dr. Messler described her as a superior Christian woman.

Cornelius and his first wife Lena had the following children:

John Messler (1753–1760)

Lena Messler Van Liew (1756–1777)

Cornelius Messler (1759–1843)

Cornelius and his second wife Maria had the following children:

Lammetje Cornelius Messler (1761–1836)

Gerret Messler (1764–1777)

John Messler (1768–1777)

Lucas Messler (1770–)

Sarah Messler Drake (1773–1826)

Cornelius and his third wife Ariantje had the following children:

Jacob Messler (1775–1780)

Maria Messler (1778–1832)

After advancing in years, he exchanged his farm with his son, Cornelius, and resided near Somerville. He often served in the Eldership, and, due to his engaging religious acumen, he was generally privileged to join the Dominie when he performed family visitations.

Cornelius was a member of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church from New Brunswick, which met in New York, October 3, 1786.

He sold his farm near Somerville after his son Lucas was married and purchased another one a few miles north of

Somerville in the vicinity of Peapack. Lucas lived there for several years while, at the same time, he purchased a house on New Street, New Brunswick. He lived there until passed away on May 25, 1806.

His remains were interred on the east side the First Reformed Dutch Church cemetery. His first wife, Lena, was interred in the cemetery of the Griggstown church. His second wife, Maria, passed away on March 8, 1777, but the location of her interment has not been found as of the date of this writing.

His third wife Ariantje and his daughter Maria are interred near him.

## Family Members

### Spouse



Laemmetje  
*Simonsoon* Messler  
1733–1759

### Children



Cornelius Messler  
1759–1843



Sarah *Messler*  
Drake  
1773–1826



Maria *Messler*Van  
Liew  
1778–1832

## Inscription

In Memory of  
Cornelues Messler  
Who departed this life 25th  
May 1806 aged 80 years,  
5 months,  
24 days

**Maintained by:** Charlie Morgan

**Originally Created by:** Judy Jordan

Added: 17 Feb 2011

Find A Grave Memorial **65784764**

*Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com>  
: accessed 17 January 2020), memorial page for Cornelues  
Johannes Messler (1 Dec 1725–25 May 1806), Find A Grave